
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google™ books

<https://books.google.com>



NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES



3 3433 10621 9094



ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

1/3RD BATT. MONMOUTHSHIRE REGT.

[edited by W. H. B. Bennett,
H. G. Tyler, and L. D. Whitehead.]



Dedicated to the Honoured Memory of

Our Comrades who fell in the Great War.

1914-1918.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY SEARGEANT BROS., LTD., USK VALE WORKS, ABERGAVENNY.

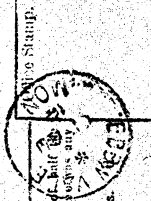
M.B.—This form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.



POST OFFICE TELEGRAPH CO., LTD.

If the Reciever of an Inland Telegram doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than 1d. being reckoned as 1d.; and if it be found that there is any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams. Office of Origin and Service Instructions.



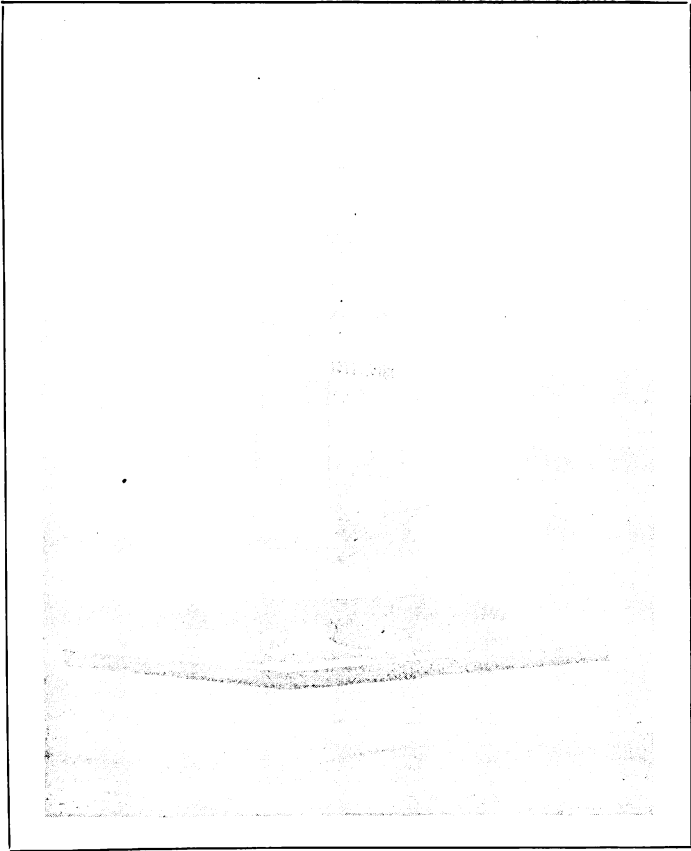
Margarynn

Charge to pay

Amount in at 6 35 received here at 6 47

TO { Commanding 3rd non-motorist
Abel Vale
mobilise Concentrate Abingdon first train
tomorrow Wednesday Commanding

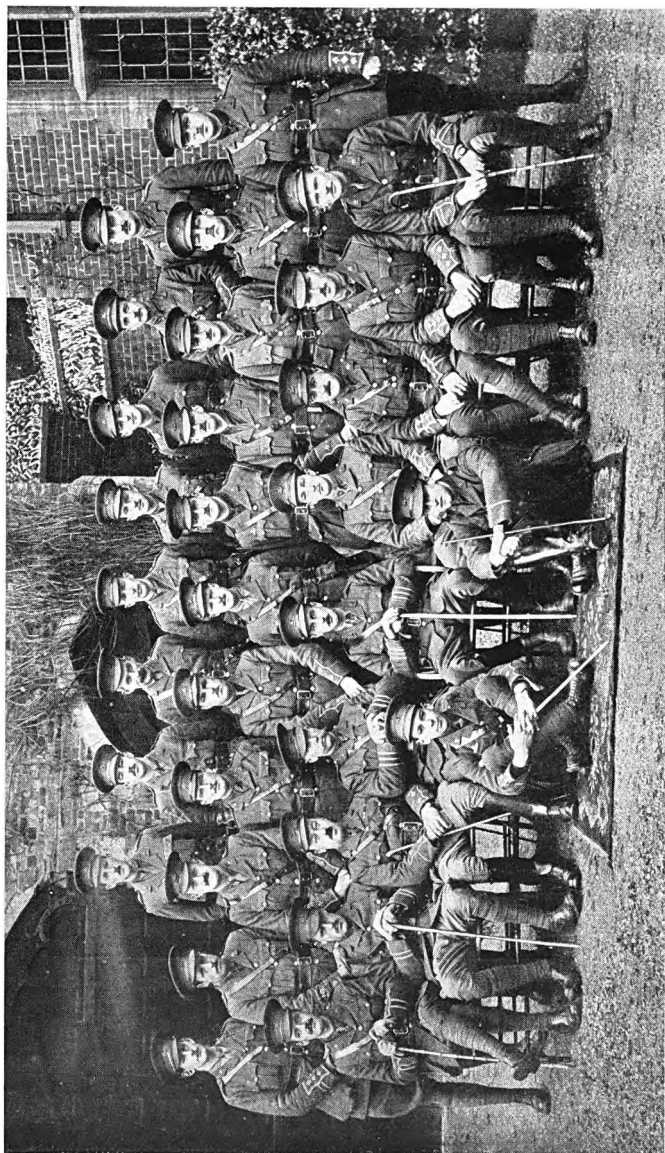
MOBILISATION ORDERS, AUGUST 4th, 1914.



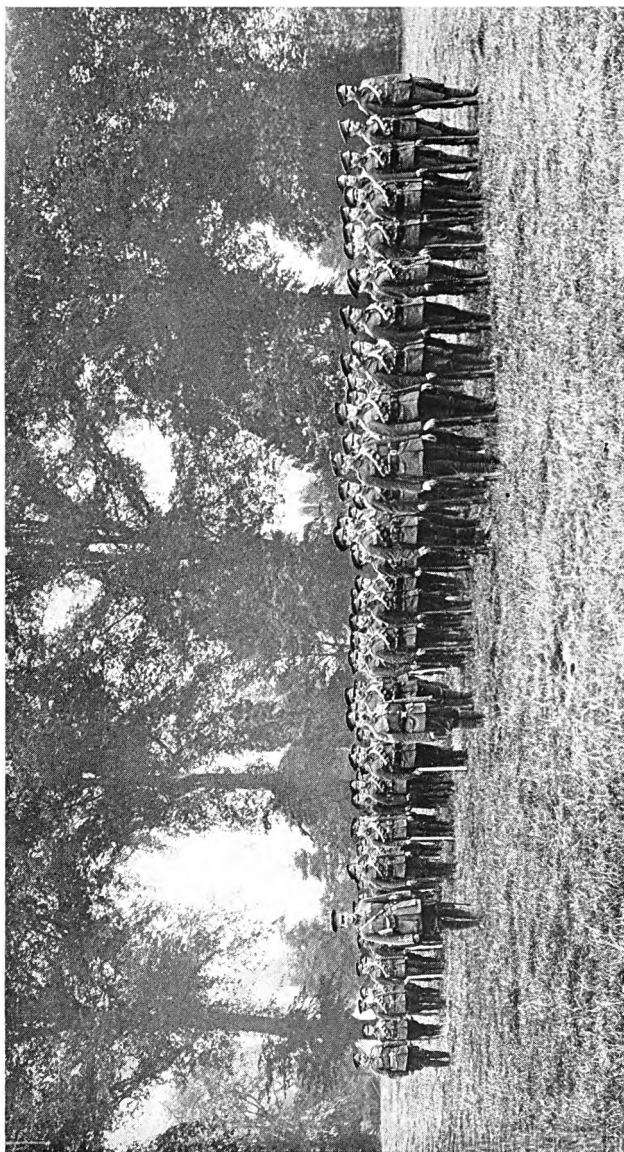
Lest we forget—in the mist of years.

BATTALION MEMORIAL

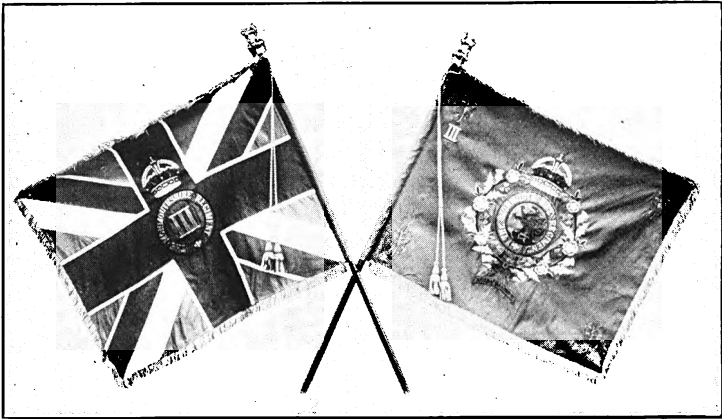
UNVEILED OCTOBER 29th, 1921.



From left to right are : Back Row—2nd Lieut. W. L. Palmer, Lieut. G. D. Maclean (R.A.M.C.), Captain J. Lancaster, Lieut. H. G. Tyler, Lieut. C. S. Reed, Lieut. G. Bennett, Lieut. F. N. Groves, 2nd Lieut. W. Onions ; second row—Captain R. O. Gardner, Lieut. C. H. G. Martin, 2nd Lieut. W. H. B. Somerset, Lieut. H. A. Hodges, Lieut. W. P. Abbott, Lieut. J. M. Jones, Lieut. L. D. Whitehead, 2nd Lieut. R. M. Derry, 2nd Lieut. C. M. Sorby, 2nd Lieut. G. W. Lancaster, Captain R. A. Lewis ; third row—Captain R. L. Baker, Captain O. W. D. Steel, Lieut. and Quartermaster A. A. Fry, Major W. S. Bridge, Lieut.-Colonel H. Worsley-Gough, Captain and Adjutant K. F. D. Gattie, Captain W. A. Lewis, Captain B. M. P. Gorman, Captain W. Routledge ; front Row—2nd Lieut. T. I. L. Lloyd, 2nd Lieut. W. Bridge.



FIRST DRAFT AT ABERGAVENNY, AUGUST, 1914.



COLOURS. 3rd MONMOUTHSHIRE REGIMENT.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
PREFACE	5
FOREWORD	8
CHAPTER I. The Early History of the Volunteer and Territorial Forces in Monmouthshire ...	11
CHAPTER II. The Opening Stages of the Great War	18
CHAPTER III. 2nd Battle of Ypres	37
NOMINAL ROLL	61
CHAPTER IV. Mining Operations at "Hill 60"...	63
CHAPTER V. The Amalgamated Monmouthshire Battalions	72
CHAPTER VI. Yser Canal	78
CHAPTER VII. The Somme	85
WAR DIARY	94
ROLL OF HONOUR	104
LIST OF HONOURS WITH EXTRACTS FROM LONDON GAZETTE	118

S 26 OCT 6 1926

ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS.

	PAGE.
MOBILIZATION ORDERS	2
BATTALION MEMORIAL	2a
OFFICERS OF THE 3RD MONMOUTHSHIRES...	2b
FIRST DRAFT	2c
COLOURS	2d
MAP OF THE SALIENT	FACING 36
CLOTH HALL, YPRES	37
GRANDE PLACE, YPRES...	37
ST. MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL	37
MENIN GATE	37
TEMPLARS HOUSE, RUE DE LILLE ...	40
CLOTH HALL RUINS	40
RAMPARTS	40
THE WATER TOWER, YPRES	40
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, YPRES	44
POPERINGHE—YPRES ROAD	44
POTIJZE CROSSROADS	44
ST. MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL, YPRES ...	44
MAP OF 83RD BRIGADE FRONT	60
PLAN OF "HILL 60"	63
ELVERDINGHE CHATEAU	78
ELVERDINGHE CHURCH	78
THE YSER CANAL. Y7 BRIDGE	78
BARD COTTAGE CEMETERY	84
FERME OLIVIER CEMETERY, ELVERDINGHE.	84
MAP OF THE YSER CANAL FRONT	84
MAP OF THE SOMME FRONT	92

PREFACE.

The aim of this book is to place on record the services of the Third Monmouthshires in the Great War in a form and at a price, which will put it within the reach of all survivors of the Battalion and the relations and friends of the fallen.

Our Honorary Colonel, Lord Treowen, C.B., C.M.G., has most kindly written a foreword to the book, and Colonel W. D. Steel, V.D., for many years our Commanding Officer, has contributed a most interesting introductory chapter.

Chapter II. is a revision by Capt. R. A. Lewis of part of a very excellent article by the late C.S.M. Gravenor, D.C.M., Croix de Guerre, published by the *South Wales Argus* in the Peace Number, July, 1919, and deals with the period from mobilisation to the beginning of April, 1915.

Chapter III. opens with the Battalion's entry into the Salient on April 8th, 1915, and covers the Second Battle of Ypres, in which the Battalion suffered its heaviest losses. At the end of this chapter is given a Nominal Roll of Officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.'s who went into the line in March, 1915.

Chapter IV. describes the mining operations at Hill 60 in March and April, 1915, in which detachments from the 1st and 3rd Monmouthshires took part.

Chapter V. deals with the period when the Battalion was amalgamated with the other two Battalions of the Regiment.

Chapter VI. covers the Battalion's services as a Pioneer Battalion with the 49th Division on the Yser Canal from September to December, 1915.

Chapter VII. describes the preparations for the first Battle of the Somme and its opening stages. This chapter ends with the disbanding of the Battalion in August, 1916.

The volume includes a number of illustrations and maps and there also will be found :—

- (a) A diary of events, compiled from the Battalion War Diary.
- (b) A Roll of Honour, compiled from two official publications, "Officers Died in the Great War." and "Soldiers died in the Great War."

The list of Officers is complete and every effort has been made to trace all casualties amongst other ranks. This has been rendered difficult owing to the disbandment of the Battalion in 1916, and the Editors would be glad to receive details of any omissions through the Publishers.

- (c) A list of Honours taken from the *London Gazette*. To this list are added records of the services for which such honours were awarded, where these have been published in the *Gazette*.

The Editors have made every effort to attain accuracy. They have used official sources, including the Historical Records in London, and have obtained much information from survivors of all ranks.

They have also been over the ground where the Battalion fought, both in the Salient and on the Somme. Reconstructed towns, villages, and farms

have altered the look of the country so greatly, that old landmarks are missing or come slowly back to mind, but the one feature of the battle area, that must strike every observer, is the British Cemeteries. These are to be found up and down the old front line and are always kept in beautiful order by British ex-service gardeners.

The largest number of 3rd Monmouthshire casualties buried together, those of December 29th, 1915, are in Ferme Olivier Cemetery at Elverdinghe, but there are graves of our comrades to be found in many other places, and always amidst English flowers and English grass. The visitor must feel with the poet that here is

*" some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England."*

Finally the Editors wish to express their grateful thanks to all those, too numerous to mention by name, who have helped them in the task of compiling a record not altogether unworthy, they hope, of a Territorial Battalion which took an early part in the critical stages of the Great War.

W. H. B. SOMERSET, H. G. TYLER, L. D. WHITEHEAD.	}	Joint Editors.
--	---	----------------

April, 1926.

FOREWORD

BY

THE RT. HON. MAJ.-GEN. LORD TREOWEN,
C.B., C.M.G.

In all countries it is the borderlands that produce the best fighting men. Wordsworth, himself a borderman, has told us that on the border

*" The good old rule
Sufficeth them, the simple plan
That they should take who have the power
And they should keep who can."*

There human nature finds free scope for its acquisitive and combative instincts; there, too, the intermingling of races and the survival, from generation to generation, of the strongest and most virile elements, create a population endowed with marked characteristics that become hereditary.

The ancient kingdom of Gwent was for centuries the Borderland in which Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman invaders strove with the aboriginal Celt for the mastery.

It was the base from which the conquest of Wales was attempted with only partial success; but from whence the Norman Lords Marchers and their feudal retainers effectively controlled the turbulent, but ever disunited Welshmen, till in the process they were themselves gradually absorbed into the Welsh nation.

While preserving their Celtic speech, which, however, differs from that of the Northern Cymru, the men of Monmouthshire have been marked by the martial characteristics of their mixed ancestry. They are and always have been essentially a fighting race.

They were the men who fought at Crecy, where, as Shakespeare has recorded, they did "goot service

wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps" and under Harry of Monmouth they contributed to the victory of "the field of Agincourt, fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus." In truth, as Fluelen says, "there is goot men porn at Monmouth."

In the Civil Wars of the Roses they were in the thick of the fight, notably at Banbury under the Earl of Pembroke and his brother Sir Richard Herbert of Coldbrook, and, in the struggle with the Parliament of the 17th Century, the Royal cause found in Monmouthshire its sturdiest adherents.

Coming to more recent times, we find the 43rd Monmouthshire Regiment one of the three Regiments that formed Craufurd's famous "Light Infantry Brigade" in the Peninsular War; and that one little county should have formed the personnel of a County Regiment, when it was already furnishing recruits for the senior 23rd and 24th regiments, speaks volumes for the martial ardour of the Monmouth men.

The history of the Royal Monmouthshire Light Infantry Militia has been written, not only in a volume of deep interest, but in the official records of the Crimean War; and the Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers, with the Monmouthshire Volunteers and the Monmouthshire Squadron of the Gloucestershire Hussars, all rendered good service in the South African War.

With such a county record in the past, with such traditions as they have created in the minds of all Monmouthshire men and women, it was only to be expected that the county would prove worthy, in the time of Britain's greatest trial, of those who had gone before them.

This little book will furnish a record—incomplete I fear it must be—of what was done by the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the 3rd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment in France.

It will be a tribute to the memory of many a dearly loved comrade and friend. To form a record of what Monmouthshire has done in the Great War, we must search not only the fields of France, and the trenches of Flanders, but we must go also to the heights of Gallipoli, to the torrid plains of Mesopotamia, and to the deserts of Palestine.

In every part of that far-flung world-wide battlefield, Monmouthshire has given of her best, and has added one more page, not an unworthy one, to her long history of loyalty to King and Country.

CHAPTER I.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE
VOLUNTEER AND TERRITORIAL FORCES
IN MONMOUTHSHIRE

BY

COLONEL W. D. STEEL,
V.D.

It is with considerable diffidence that I have undertaken to write a brief foreword to the history of the 3rd. Monmouthshire Regiment and I can only plead in excuse my long association with the Regiment.

A brief history of the Battalion from its formation about the year 1860 may, I hope, prove of interest.

The first company to be formed was raised by Lieut. Richard Steel at Blaenavon, in October, 1859, and in that and the following year, Companies were also formed at Pontypool, Monmouth, Usk and Abergavenny, and three companies at Newport, the whole when amalgamated being known as the 2nd Administrative Battalion Monmouthshire Rifle Volunteers.*

Though the different Corps or Companies met once or twice a year for a Battalion Drill, they were all, at this time, quite independent of each other and administered their own finances, each man providing his own uniform and belt, as rifles and ammunition alone were supplied by the Government. At first necessary expenses were met by the Officers and by public subscription, but in two or three years

**In 1861 there were three Volunteer Battalions in the County, 1st and 2nd Administrative Battalions and the 2nd Consolidated Battalion.*

this precarious income proved quite insufficient and the whole Volunteer movement was in danger of collapse through lack of funds; the very existence of the force was at stake.

A Royal Commission appointed to consider the matter reported strongly in favour of retaining a force that might prove of inestimable value to the country in time of need, and advised a Capitation Grant by the Government of £1 for each proficient Volunteer, *i.e.*, for each man who was able to produce a certificate signed by his C.O. and Adjutant that he was efficient in drill and had been fully instructed in the manual and platoon exercise; an additional grant of 10/- per man was made to all who had fired a certain amount of ball cartridge, according to regulations laid down by the Government. The Grant was subsequently increased to 35/- and later to 50/-

The Headquarters of the 2nd Administrative Battalion Monmouthshire Rifle Volunteers was then at Pontypool, and in May, 1861, a grand review of the three Monmouthshire Battalions was held in Pontypool Park, at the invitation of Mr. Hanbury Leigh, Lord Lieutenant of the County. At its conclusion Mrs. Hanbury Leigh presented to each of the three Battalions a silver bugle with the words, "I have great pleasure in presenting you with this bugle as a token of my great admiration of the gallant Monmouthshire Volunteers."

On the bugle of the 3rd Battalion is engraved the following inscription, "Presented to the 2nd Administrative Battalion of the Monmouthshire Volunteers by Mrs. Hanbury Leigh, 20th May, 1861." This bugle is still in the possession of the Battalion and the names of the successive C.O.'s are engraved upon it.

The late Lord Llanover, grandfather of our Honorary Colonel Major-General Lord Treowen, shortly afterwards succeeded Mr. Hanbury Leigh as Lord Lieutenant of the County, and, taking a keen interest in the Volunteer movement, used his influence to obtain uniformity in their dress.

In July, 1879, I joined the Abergavenny Company as subaltern to my father, who then commanded the 9th (Abergavenny) Corps. At that time the whole Battalion was clothed in Rifle Green, but, as each Corps or Company provided its own cloth, the shades varied to some extent and there were other slight discrepancies. The Abergavenny Company for instance wore a small bull-dog's head in bronze on their shakos and were known as the "Bulldogs", a nickname due to a special breed of dogs peculiar to the town. I can just remember the last of these dogs owned by the old town crier; at his death the strain died out.

The companies forming the 2nd Administrative Battalion became consolidated in 1880 when all authority was vested in the Colonel, who henceforth controlled all matters of finance and was responsible also for the discipline, equipment and efficiency of his command.

The Headquarters of the Battalion were about this time removed to Newport. The consolidation, which also applied to the 1st Administrative and the 2nd Consolidated Battalions, rendered it necessary that a change of title should be made, so the three battalions became the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions Monmouthshire Rifle Volunteers.

Shortly afterwards, when Regular regimental numbers were dropped and Territorial names substituted, the Breconshire Volunteers were brigaded with the three Monmouthshire Battalions and affiliated to the South Wales Borderers (24th Regt.),

as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Volunteer Battalions of that Regiment under the title of the South Wales Border Brigade, with Headquarters at Brecon.

The rifle with which the Battalion was first equipped was the muzzle-loading Enfield, which was shortly afterwards converted into the Snider breech-loader and used by the Volunteers until replaced by the Martini Henry, which in its turn was replaced by the Lee Metford and later by the Lee Enfield.

The first training camp was formed in 1881, and from that time onwards the Battalion went into camp regularly every year. In 1888 the Battalion adopted the scarlet uniform. In 1889 the South Wales Border Brigade was broken up and the three Monmouthshire Battalions attached to the Severn Brigade. Various changes in the composition of the Brigade took place in the ensuing years and the Training Camps were held alternately on either side of the Bristol Channel. In 1891, the Brigade was reformed under the title of the Welsh Brigade, and included, besides the 3rd and 4th V.B. S.W.B., the 2nd V.B. Welsh Regiment and 3rd Glamorgan R.V.

During the Boer War the Battalion sent its full complement of Officers, N.C.O.'s and Men to the front, no less than eight officers of the Battalion holding commissions in the field, a record, I believe, for any Volunteer Battalion. During this war, recruiting was very brisk and an extra Company was raised at Newport, making four in all.

In 1908 the change from Volunteers to Territorials was made and a re-distribution of the companies took place, Pontypool, Usk, Monmouth, Blaenavon, and four Newport Companies were withdrawn from the Battalion, which only retained the Abergavenny Company, their places being taken by two Companies from Abertillery, one from Sirhowy, one from Ebbw

Vale (late 3rd V.B. S.W.B.), and one from Tredegar (late 2nd V.B. S.W.B.), and I had the task of raising two new Companies from Blaina and Cwm to complete the Battalion. These became the 3rd Battalion of the Monmouthshire Regiment. I was strongly opposed to the change and did my utmost to prevent it. I pointed out that, with the exception of Blaenavon, all the Companies taken from me came from non-industrial centres and would be much better kept together. However, I was over-ruled and soon came to see the wisdom of the change, though very loath to give up the old companies with whom I had been associated for so many years. The task of raising companies at Blaina and Cwm was not an easy one, but recruiting was much stimulated by eloquent and stirring speeches delivered at both places by General Sir Francis Lloyd, who was then in command of the Welsh Division.

I do not hesitate to say that I looked forward with a good deal of trepidation to the work of forming my new Battalion. The first camp was at Abergavenny, and I never saw a more motley collection of Companies as they arrived at Headquarters, some were in green, some in blue, some in red, while the two new companies from Cwm and Blaina were more or less in khaki. Within a week the whole Battalion appeared in khaki and soon pulled together, Officers, N.C.O.'s, and men, all doing their best for the credit of the new Battalion. By the end of the training the new 3rd Monmouths were quite able to take their place with credit in the S.W. Border Brigade, the inspecting officer giving a thoroughly satisfactory report.

Some little time later an Army Order was issued intimating that Territorial Regiments would be permitted to carry Colours, at the same time it was expressly stated that the expense was not to come

on public funds. I at once cast about to find some generous person of position who might be asked to present one or both of the Colours and immediately thought of the Honorable Mrs. Herbert of Llanover, mother of our Honorary Colonel, Major-General Sir Ivor Herbert (now Lord Treowen). I wrote with much diffidence to Mrs. Herbert, suggesting that she might possibly see her way to presenting one or even both of the Colours. Mrs. Herbert responded immediately to the suggestion and cabled from Rome, where she happened to be at the time, that she would give both; not only so but she took the keenest interest in the design of the Regimental Colour. The drawing, as sent down originally by the Herald's College, was very stereotyped and unattractive and, when submitted to Mrs. Herbert, she expressed strong disapproval. An attempt on my part to obtain its modification having failed, Mrs. Herbert herself took the matter in hand, went to London and interviewed those in authority and obtained permission for the Regiment to carry the handsome and interesting Colour which is still the valued possession of the 3rd Monmouths. Shortly afterwards Colours were handed to Regimental Colour parties from all over the Kingdom by his Majesty, the late King Edward VII., at Windsor. The Colour Subalterns for the 3rd Mons. on that occasion were my son Lieut. Owen Steel (afterwards Lt. Col. Commanding the Battalion) and Lieut. Oswald Gardner (killed in action on the 8th May, 1915, at the Second Battle of Ypres).

I retired from the command of the Battalion in April, 1914. On the declaration of War the Battalion was mobilised at Abergavenny and proceeded to Pembroke, and later to France. 2nd and 3rd Line Battalions were afterwards formed for the purpose of sending out drafts to fill up casualties in the 1st line.

The later history of the Battalion and the splendid part it played in the Great War will be told in the following pages, and so needs no words from me, while the fame of its exploits will be ever kept before the minds of generations to come by the striking and beautiful figure of our War Memorial at Abergavenny, which we owe to the genius of the Sculptor Ledward.

I wish to acknowledge my indebtedness for much of the early history of the Regiment to Colonel Thomas Mitchell's Book, "The History of the Volunteer Movement in Monmouthshire."

CHAPTER II.

THE OPENING STAGES OF THE GREAT WAR

BY

CAPT. R. A. LEWIS

AND THE LATE

C.S.M. G. A. GRAVENOR, D.C.M.

We have seen in Chapter I. how the 3rd Battalion as composed on the outbreak of war had crystallised, as it were, out of a rearrangement of the old South Wales Borderers Volunteer Companies, supplemented by two new Companies raised by Colonel Steel.

In August, 1914, it was composed of one company at Tredegar, and one at Sirhowy, in the Sirhowy Valley; one company at Ebbw Vale, and one at Cwm, in the Ebbw Valley; two companies at Abertillery, and one at Blaina, in the Nantyglo Valley; and one company and the Headquarters of the Battalion at Abergavenny.

It will thus be seen that, in the main, the Battalion was raised in the northern parts of the Monmouthshire coalfield, and commanded and administered from the nearest County Borough.

The Battalion had been selected for attachment to the Regular Army during the Autumn manoeuvres, 1914, and consequently was not in camp as usual in August.

Following the King's Proclamation mobilising the Territorial Force, telegraphic orders were received by the respective Officers commanding companies late on the evening of August 4th, to mobilise their units and concentrate at Headquarters at Abergavenny early the following morning.

There was a scene of continuous activity throughout the night in warning all ranks for duty, and preparations commenced at dawn for the concentration.

In spite of the early hour, great interest was taken in the various company preparations. A striking feature of the moment was the large number of time expired men who had served in the Battalion that rejoined on this morning, stirred at the prospect of taking a hand in what everyone knew, even then, would be the most colossal struggle between the forces of liberty and those of the greatest military autocracy that the world had yet known.

Thus the men of the Welsh Border renewed the ancient spirit of their ancestors, and mobilised gaily, but grimly, to take whatever part or fortune fell to their lot, in what was to prove for all of them the greatest adventure of their lives, and for a great many of them the last and crowning adventure of all.

Each company had a rousing send-off from its point of assembly, and departed to entrain for Headquarters amidst the acclamation of the crowded streets, carrying with them the hopes and prayers of all their well-wishers.

The assembly of the Battalion took place in the market place of the ancient Borough of Abergavenny ; here the final orders were issued for joining the Welsh Division.

The Battalion was now a complete unit under the command of Lt. Col. P. B. Ford, T.D., with Major E. H. Fawckner, Second-in-Command.

An interested spectator was our former beloved commander, Col. W. Dyne Steel, V.D., who watched with mingled pride and regret the preparations for the departure of his Battalion ; the utmost extension of regulations had not permitted him to retain the command he graced so well.

A touching little ceremony, which took place in the afternoon, was that of handing over the Battalion Colours into the custody of the Mayor and Corporation of Abergavenny; the Mayor accepting the honourable trust of their safe keeping in the name of the town. It is probable that all those who took part, and all those who witnessed this ceremony, had little idea of the time that was to elapse, and the extent to which the life of the nation was to be disturbed, before this trust should come to an end, and the Colours once more be restored to the Battalion.

Late on the night of August 5th the Battalion entrained in two troop trains for Pembroke Dock, and detrained there in the early hours of the following day, after an uneventful journey, joining the Welsh Border Brigade.

The mobilisation of the Territorial Force had taken place with remarkable smoothness, but it was inevitable that the first few days should be a severe test of the equipment and commissariat services, and of the temper and spirit of the rank and file, who, at the shortest notice, were faced with life under active service conditions.

The Battalion went straight under canvas; the area available was small, and the tents were few and consequently fully packed. Further, to complicate matters, the weather broke and rain fell heavily during most of the time the Brigade remained at Pembroke Dock.

In the meantime advance parties had been dispatched to Oswestry, where the Division was to be assembled, and the Brigade moved on the night of August 8th, arriving in Oswestry at noon on Sunday; the Brigade comprising the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monmouths, and the 1st Herefords, stout companions in many a camp in years gone by.

The Battalion transport under Lt. C. H. G. Martin, Purchasing Officer, and Lt. J. Merton Jones, Transport Officer, arrived a few days later. The whole of the horses required had to be purchased in the allotted area in Monmouthshire, the transport vehicles collected at Abergavenny, and the move effected by road. The short time, in which all this was done, made it a creditable performance.

All difficulties with regard to food supplies had to be disposed of by the Battalion Officers, until the Army Service Corps took over the regular supply service on the following Tuesday.

Oswestry, a flourishing market town in the heart of a prosperous pastoral country, was a welcome change for the troops. The authorities and tradesmen of the town spared no effort in helping with the necessary preparations to meet the influx of such a large body of troops at short notice. The Battalion fared simply but well. The cold stones of the market place and the hard boards of the local schools were their resting place, but in spite of all, the spirit of the men was splendid, and hardships were cheerfully borne.

Here the Battalion entered on the early phases of the training, which much resembled the routine of their annual camps, except that the discipline became gradually more taut, and the work intensified. The troops were well exercised; company drill, field training, and instruction in musketry and the care of arms provided the main features of the training. The latter part of the period was spent under canvas, the camp being off the Gobowen-Oswestry road.

Officers and men were taking matters very seriously; the troops had settled down well to their work and were looking extremely fit; the general

bearing of the whole Battalion was approaching closely to the soldierly standard to which it aspired.

This phase of our training soon came to an end, and the Battalion moved into billets at Northampton, on Sunday, Aug. 30th. An advance party had been at work arranging for billeting the troops on the population at St. James's End. This form of disposition of troops was new to both the people of the city and the rank and file, but the goodwill of the citizens, aided by the behaviour of the men, soon disposed of minor difficulties, and the troops were very comfortably situated during their stay.

The Headquarters were at St. James's Church Institute, with fields at the rear as our training ground.

The efforts of all ranks were now directed towards attaining military efficiency in the shortest time. Physical training, intensified field work, and ever lengthening route marches, were the order of the day. A range of thirty butts was completed by divisional troops at Dallington, and musketry practices were here pursued, and completed throughout the period of stay.

Lt. General Sir Bruce Hamilton inspected the Brigade at the end of four weeks of this period of training, and appeared to be impressed by the physique and bearing of the Brigade.

Soon after certain important changes in the personnel of the Battalion took place. It had been decided that in order to release the 1st Line Territorial Battalions for active service, reserve Battalions were to be raised at their Territorial Headquarters. A nucleus Battalion had been in course of formation at Abergavenny for some time, and Lt. Col. P. B. Ford and Major E. H. Fawckner were now posted to this Battalion.

The command of the Battalion now devolved on Lt. Col. H. W. Worsley-Gough, late the Connaught Rangers, with Major W. S. Bridge, late the Durham Light Infantry, as second-in-command. Later, Capt. Otway Smithers, the Adjutant, left to rejoin his unit, and Capt. K. F. D. Gattie, of ours, was appointed in his place on October 13th. Our much cherished Quartermaster, Lt. A. A. Fry, still remained with us to solve everyone's difficulties, and Sgt.-Instr. T. Hatton was promoted Regimental Sgt.-Major. The rest of the permanent staff were drafted to other units.

At the end of October, the Battalion was detailed for field fortification work on the East Coast, and were first directed to an area with Headquarters at Tuddenham, near Ipswich, but after a stay of one day they moved to Grundisburgh, and commenced work on a line of trenches running from Martlesham Creek, north of Felixstowe, north-west to Stowmarket. These trenches were finished complete with barbed wire, machine-gun emplacements and shelters. At that time the danger of invasion was considered to be a very real one, and occasionally the tedium of the routine work was enlivened by rumours of bombardments and attempted landings.

While we were on this tour of duty, the 2nd Monmouths left the Brigade to join the Expeditionary Force, their reserve Battalion having been brought up to the necessary strength and training to enable them to be detached. The dispatch of first line Territorial units to replace regular units called in from abroad, and to reinforce regular Brigades in the field, was now beginning. The Battalion returned to Northampton on November 13th for the purpose of refitting for service in India.

The first general furlough was now granted to the rank and file, who received a short respite from

their arduous duties. This leave was for 48 hours only, which had to include the railway journey to and from South Wales. It is worthy of note that although the time was so short, practically no cases of over-staying leave occurred, and the men returned to the Battalion as keen as ever.

It should be remembered, that, during this time, the British Army in France was fighting against heavy odds, and that the triumphant advance of the German Army still appeared to be only temporarily checked; the general situation gave rise to great anxiety.

The Battalion was never much attracted by the prospect of service in India, and to the relief of everyone these orders were eventually countermanded. Arrangements were not yet completed, however, for sending the Battalion overseas, and there was still some apprehension of a possible German landing on the East Coast, so on November 30th they returned to complete their work on the defence line in Suffolk, and remained there until January 10th, 1915.

A special order was issued by the G.O.C.-in-C., Central Force, giving great praise to the Battalion for the manner in which the work of trench digging had been accomplished under very adverse conditions as to weather and equipment. Many miles of trenches had been dug, and this, with the accessory work in the way of wire entanglements and shelters, meant a vast amount of work.

During this period, drafts were arriving at Northampton from the reserve Battalion at Aberystwyth to make up the strength of the parent Battalion. These drafts were all fit men, sent to replace those, who, during the drastic final selection, were found unfit for foreign service.

Major W. S. Bridge was in command of Brigade details at Northampton, with Capt. O. W. D. Steel in charge of Battalion details, Colour-Sgt. G. A. Gravenor and a staff of Instructors were engaged training the drafts.

On January 10th, 1915, the Battalion was withdrawn from the East Coast. They left the Grundisburgh area with very pleasant memories of the many kindnesses received by Officers and men at the hands of all the residents in the area, which had materially assisted in easing the discomforts entailed in the discharge of their duties. Thence they proceeded to Cambridge, and were joined there by the whole of the details from Northampton. The unfit men and those classified for home service were sent to the reserve Battalion.

The Battalion now assembled in its final form ; the establishment of Officers was complete, and the whole consisted of tried and tested men, all of whom had volunteered for service in the field. They were refitted throughout with new service equipment, rifles and bayonets, and the old equipment was passed to the 2nd Line, who, until then, had been short of these necessities.

The Battalion was reorganized into four double Companies, and a final compressed course of exercise in movements in this formation, and instruction and practice in bayonet fighting, carried out on the famous enclosure known as Parker's Piece, occupied the remainder of the time the Battalion were at Cambridge.

The Division was inspected on January 20th on the march, in column of route, by Major General Lindley, G.O. Commanding, and afterwards marched past a saluting base where Lt. General Sir Ian Hamilton and other Officers completed a critical

inspection of the Division in advance of the more important ceremony shortly to take place.

The climax of affairs at this stage was reached when, on Parker's Piece, on February 11th, 1915, His Majesty, King George the Fifth, inspected his first Welsh Division, a fitting and historic conclusion to the period of preparation of these gallant volunteer members of his forces, prior to their leaving the shores of Britain for the fateful battlefields of Flanders, many of them never to return.

The massed khaki-clad soldiers were drawn up on Parker's Piece in a hollow square, and received His Majesty with a royal salute, a veritable billow of shimmering steel, as the Division presented arms.

His Majesty then inspected the troops, after which the General Officer Commanding called for "three cheers for the King." A memorable scene ensued. The assembled troops suddenly raised aloft their caps on the points of their bayonets, and a deep throated cheer was repeated again and again—a heartfelt tribute from his Welsh warriors to their King.

The King then made his way to the saluting base at the north end of Queen Anne Terrace, where a low platform covered in red cloth had been built, above which the Royal Standard proudly floated. Here, surrounded by many distinguished Officers, His Majesty received the salutes of the marching Division, guns, horse and foot swinging past to martial music. The progress of the infantry in full marching order, and great-coats in double column of fours, past the saluting base was particularly impressive.

A general order was issued the next day expressing His Majesty's pleasure at observing the discipline and bearing of the Division, and conveying his compliments to the men of the Welsh Division

for the soldierly manner in which the movements and march past had been carried out.

Events now moved rapidly for the Battalion. For some time past units of the Territorial Force had been detailed to reinforce Regular Brigades in the field, and the 1st and 3rd Monmouthshires, 5th Cheshires, and the 4th Royal Welch Fusiliers, had been selected from the Infantry of the Welsh Division for this duty.

So, on Saturday, February 13th, 1915, for the last time in this country, Lt. Col. H. Worsley-Gough paraded his Battalion in the cold grey dawn. Before the citizens of Cambridge were astir, the troop trains were clear of the town on their way to Southampton, where the Battalion embarked with transport, horses and baggage in the S.S. "Chyabassa" and other transports, leaving the port on the night of February 14th to cross the Channel for Havre under convoy of the Royal Navy.

No lights were permitted on the voyage on account of the activity of enemy submarines, although the Channel was full of other shipping feeling its way in the dark under similar conditions.

A tour on deck during this stealthy crossing of the convoy heightened one's respect for our gallant countrymen, who, in pursuance of their duty, go down to the sea in ships. The submariner groping blindly amid the shoals and currents of the undersea, the navigator opposing his skill and craft to the power of relentless wind and wave, and the night-flying airman at the mercy of the hidden sea and land below. The Infantryman could, at least, reflect that the earth, on which he would move and have his being, possessed a fair degree of solidity, and could be used on occasion as a means for his own protection.

Apart from certain necessarily sudden changes of course, which disturbed the horses considerably, the passage was made without untoward incident. The port of Havre was reached at 8 a.m. on February 15th. These were early days of the war, and the arrival of the troopships was greeted with great enthusiasm by the crowds on the quay. On disembarkation it was discovered that certain ardent spirits, some under age, had accompanied the troops in spite of orders to remain at home, trusting to their zeal to obtain them pardon for their offence, and in due time this was so.

The Battalion marched to a base camp at Ste Adresse, situated on the cliffs above Havre, and after a chilly night under canvas departed the following evening in a train of spacious cars, " Hommes 40 " Class. After a leisurely journey, they detrained at Bavinchove at 5 p.m. on February 17th. A short march was made to Cassel, then the G.H.Q. of the French Northern Army, and the troops were accommodated for the night in various public buildings. The next morning the Battalion moved to Steenvoorde, a town about fourteen miles west of Ypres. They now had their first experience of marching on the pavé, a road surface of uneven stone setts, most trying to march upon, and in wet weather very treacherous to the feet of the heavily loaded Infantryman ; with this they were later to become distressingly familiar.

The Battalion was now close to the battle zone ; the thunder of the heavy guns could be heard, and at night the flicker of the flares lighting up the line could be seen. The troops were billeted on the population of Steenvoorde for eleven days to get them accustomed to their new surroundings, and to enable them to complete certain courses of instruction in trench digging and the making and hurling of bombs and grenades.

All ranks were kept fit by frequent route marches; during one of which, it may be recalled, they passed through the picturesque village of Godewaersvelde, under the shadow of the Mont des Cats, a rocky height surmounted by a Trappist Monastery, commanding the flat country around. This landmark was of interest, as it marked the furthest point westward reached by the invading German Armies in this region during their opening offensive.

During this time the Battalion was put through its paces on the march and in field exercises, before the critical eyes of the officers of the Higher Command of the Expeditionary Force. Its ultimate destination was now decided. Orders were issued that the Battalion was to join the 28th Division commanded by Maj.-Gen. Bulfin. This Division forming part of the Fifth Corps under General Sir Herbert Plumer, which in turn was included in the Second Army, commanded by General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien.

The Divisional unit to which the Battalion was posted was the 83rd Infantry Brigade commanded by Brig.-Gen. Boyle. This fine Brigade, composed of regular troops recalled from service in the East, was made up of the 1st King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, the 1st York and Lancashire Regt., the 2nd East Yorkshire Regt., and the 2nd King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt. To these were to be added the 5th King's Own Royal Lancaster Regt. (T.F.) commanded by Lord Richard Cavendish, and the 3rd Batt. The Monmouthshire Regt. (T.F.)

The Battalion left Steenvoorde on the morning of February 28th, and after marching a few miles to Caestre was conveyed on a fleet of old London omnibuses to Bailleul, where they joined the Division, spending the night at St. Jans Capelle on the outskirts of the town. The following day, March 1st,

St. David's Day, they moved to billets east of Bailleul around Ravelsberg, on the Franco-Belgian Frontier, and that night the first party of nine officers and sixteen N.C.O.'s was sent in for instruction to the front line sector occupied by the 1st Welch Regt; the following night the remaining officers and senior N.C.O.'s went in, some to the same sector, and others to that adjoining, held by the 1st Suffolk Regt.

Grateful tribute should here be paid to all officers of the Regular Army with whom the Battalion now came in contact. The Territorials, ranging themselves with considerable diffidence alongside the professional soldiers of the most highly trained army in the world, were treated with great consideration, and given every encouragement and help that could possibly be given by seasoned soldiers to raw troops. The rank and file found their ready acceptance as comrades by the hardbitten warriors in the line most refreshing. This was reflected in a keener attention to duty, and the men became more determined than ever to prove themselves worthy of the welcome thus extended to them on their arrival in the field.

These visits of instruction were the first experience that the officers of the Battalion had of field works actually in the line. Owing to the exigencies of their construction in the presence of the enemy, they were very different from those prescribed in the manuals. The lines were composed of disconnected sections of works, partly trench and partly sandbagged breast work, the ground being extremely soft and difficult to drain. Communication with the various trench sections could only take place at night, any exposed target by day drew immediate rifle fire. Any rest could only be obtained in roughly constructed shelters, few and far between immediately behind the fire trenches.

These trenches were on the west slope of the Messines-Wytschaete Ridge, (See Map page 36) the enemy trenches being anything from a hundred to two hundred yards to the east. The line ran south-east to Ploegsteert and north-west to Kemmel. Wulverghem village lay behind in a slight depression, and the buildings afforded some shelter from rifle fire. The approach to the trenches was mostly dead to view, but here, as elsewhere, the air was alive with stray bullets fired from the enemy line.

In this sector the Battalion took up duty in the front line for the first time on the night of March 12th. Col. H. Worsley-Gough, Major W. S. Bridge, Capt. and Adj. K. F. D. Gattie, with Battalion Headquarters, were stationed at the eastern end of the village in St. Quentin Cabaret; A Company—Capt. R. L. Baker; B Company—Capt. R. O. Gardner; C Company—Capt. O. W. D. Steel and Capt. B. M. P. Gorman; and D Company—Major W. A. Lewis and Capt. J. Lancaster were posted on either side of the Wulverghem-Messines Road. Two platoons of A Company under Capt. R. A. Lewis were detailed to reinforce the 1st York and Lancs. Regt., whose ranks were seriously depleted by recent losses, in an adjoining sector. The machine-gun section, commanded by Lt. C. H. G. Martin, occupied the special positions allotted to them. The transport under Lt. Merton Jones maintained supplies from Lt. and Qmr. Fry's Stores at Ravelsberg.

The men now had their first experience of trench warfare. The sector was reputed to be a quiet one, but in a minor way the enemy was continuously active. Throughout each day bursts of artillery fire from the lighter calibre guns were directed against the breast works, with occasional bombardment by trench mortar, which resulted in considerable damage. When a breach was effected, the repair

had to be undertaken with the utmost precaution, the spot being closely watched by the enemy marksmen. An apparently purposeless rifle fire was kept up, most of the bullets striking the tops of the parapets, and it was only when the melting away of the parapets through punctured sandbags was observed, that the purpose of this fire became obvious. The enemy tried to keep as many of our men as possible in the fire trenches, where they would be most exposed to attack by shell and grenade.

This persistent action together with the unstable condition of the earthworks under the very trying weather conditions made it necessary for constant labour to be expended and risk incurred in the maintenance of the trenches. The debatable ground between the lines also had to be continuously watched and patrolled with a view to anticipating any move on the part of the enemy.

It was obvious that the enemy were far better equipped with the machinery of war than were our troops. Our guns most of the time had to remain silent through shortage of ammunition, particularly of high explosive shell, and none of the particular implements of trench warfare, such as mortars and the grenade throwing devices, were available. Our artillery support included an Indian Mountain Battery, very picturesque and well trained, but these guns were wholly ineffective in such warfare.

The enemy were prodigal in their expenditure of ammunition; in addition to constantly harassing the front line, they were continually firing from fixed rifles and machine guns on various tactical points, such as road junctions, and open spaces in the villages behind our lines.

Having the necessary material at their command, their trenches were better protected by wire entangle-

ment and of more finished construction than ours, in general appearing to be covered and provided with loopholes, which made effective retaliatory action on our part difficult.

The conditions of the line were extremely miserable, the least rainfall flooded the rudely constructed shelters in the trenches, and the close proximity of the enemy cramped movement. Fires could only be lit and tended with great caution, any display of smoke receiving prompt enemy attention. The food was plentiful and satisfying, but somewhat monotonous in shape, most of it being supplied by those famous caterers, Armour, Libby, and Maconochie, trimmings by Tickler. Bacon and biscuits of great toughness, tea, sugar, and tinned milk made up the Carte du Jour, with the famous vin blanc, Carteau Chlorlimo (Nobon) occupying pride of place on the wine list. In case of the appetite becoming jaded, rum and lime juice, in medicinal doses, were available for urgent cases. Tobacco, the indispensable solace of the soldier, was maintained in good supply by kind friends at home.

These were the difficult and trying conditions under which our troops endeavoured to present as bold a front as possible to the enemy without incurring useless risks; encouraging the enemy to expend his ammunition and at night his flares, which he obligingly did on the least demonstration on our part, and keeping an incessant look-out for any signs of movement.

As time progressed the Battalion unfortunately, but unavoidably, suffered numerous casualties, and learned by bitter experience with what vigilance and care trench warfare has to be conducted in order to avoid constant wastage of men. Lt. L. D. Whitehead was our first officer casualty, being hit through

the thigh on March 17th by a sniper, when in an exposed part of the trench held by C Company. The ground behind this part of the line was rather notorious for the activities of these troublesome "outliers," the lie of the land and the inevitable gaps in the thinly held trench line favouring access to and from their own lines.

With regard to the general situation in the line ; to the north of Wulverghem matters were getting increasingly active ; the lines here formed an enemy salient which he was at some pains to maintain, and was constantly endeavouring to improve his position. Eventually, an important engagement developed at St. Eloi, where a mound useful for observation purposes had long been a bone of contention. This was captured by a German surprise attack, and recovered by prompt counter attack. This led to a series of actions which continued in this part of the line without however a definite result for either side.

Later, to the south, British troops took the offensive at Neuve Chapelle, where for the first time they were able to mass a considerable number of guns. The results obtained in this action, in which several miles of enemy works were taken and occupied by our men, appeared to have a disconcerting effect on the enemy, and counter action on his part was clearly needed to restore his prestige.

The enemy artillery became more active all along the line, and the number of their heavy guns in action was clearly increased. A great amount of damage was done in the towns and villages immediately behind the line, and Wulverghem Church and village were completely wrecked by gunfire by the end of March.

The tour of duty of the Battalion in this part of the line now drew to its close. Altogether they had

been practically in continuous employment for a month. In the intervals of periods of duty in the front line trenches, they retired to their billets at Ravelsberg, and thence provided detachments for the construction of reserve trenches and various associated field works in the rear of the front line, for which work they were subsequently commended. Towards the end of the month it became evident that a move was impending. On March 31st, Capt. V. B. Ramsden of The South Wales Borderers was posted to the Battalion as Adjutant, and Capt. Gattie assumed command of B Company. On the night of April 2nd the Battalion was withdrawn from the Wulverghem sector and moved back to Bailleul.

The Battalion had acquitted itself in a manner which obtained for it much credit; it had added considerably to its knowledge of the conditions and necessities of war. They left behind many comrades in the little cemeteries around Wulverghem, but the troops emerged from their period of probation with their spirit entirely undiminished by the dangers they had encountered and the hardships they had endured.

After a few days for rest and renovation of equipment at Bailleul, they left on Easter Monday, April 5th, for billets at Boeschepe. Here, on the morning of April 7th, the 83rd Brigade assembled for inspection by General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, their Army Commander, who was accompanied by his own Staff and that of the 28th Division.

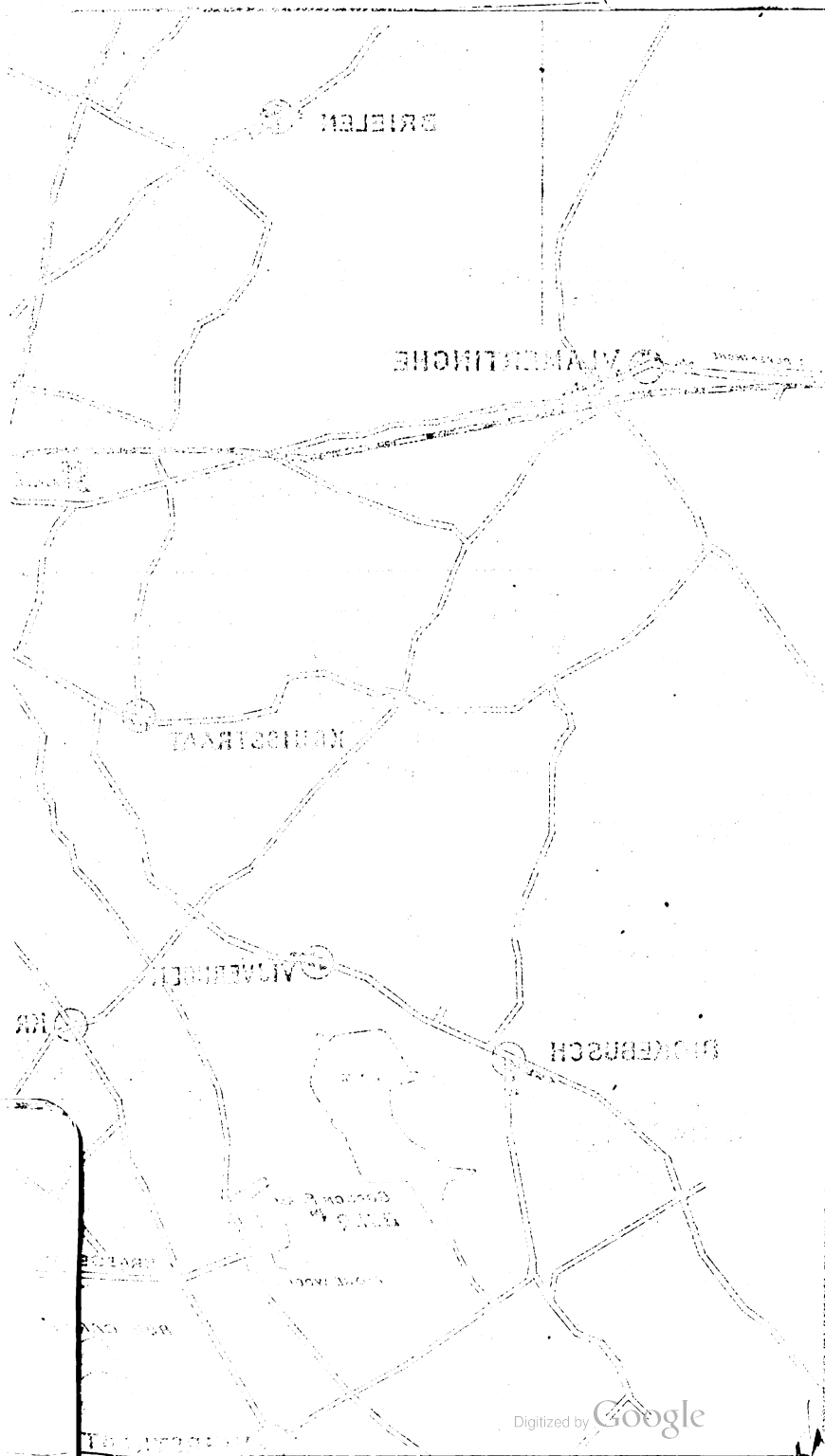
The General afterwards addressed the mustered officers, warrant officers and senior N.C.O.'s of the Brigade in the courtyard of a farm at Boeschepe. His speech contained a memorable summing-up of the lessons to be learned from the past experience of the Brigade in the field, an appreciation of the general situation at that time, together with a guarded

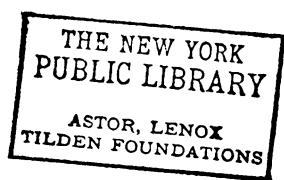
forecast of events that were to be anticipated in the near future.

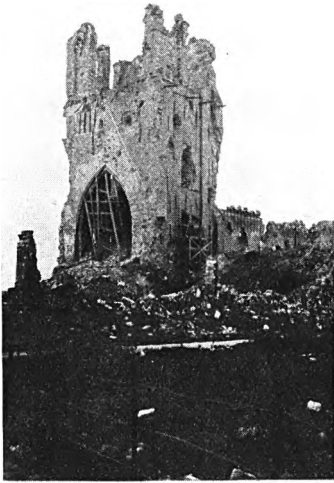
It was clear that energetic action by the enemy was shortly to be expected, and that high responsibilities had been allotted to the Division in the area in which this action was expected to develop, the immortal Salient of Ypres. By this name was designated that portion of the lines projecting beyond the Yser Canal from Steenstraate on the north to the Comines Canal on the south, a sector of most evil reputation, thoroughly well deserved. The fact of it being a salient attracted and made it vulnerable to attack, particularly as the lie of the ground included was roughly that of a saucer with the German Army occupying the points of vantage on the rim. The whole of the ground at the back of the line could be thoroughly observed from Passchendaele and the Messines Ridge at the rear of the enemy lines.

This then was the stage set for the next task of the Brigade, and it now remained for the men of the Monmouths perforce to steel their hearts against the day of trial which all ranks felt to be rapidly approaching.

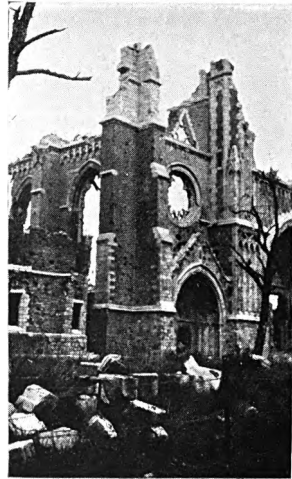




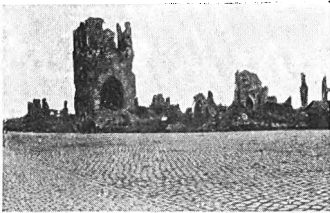




CLOTH HALL, YPRES.



ST. MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL.



GRANDE PLACE, YPRES.



MENIN GATE.

CHAPTER III.

2ND BATTLE OF YPRES. APRIL—MAY, 1915.

BY

THE EDITORS.

C.Q.M.S. DUNN, M.M., M.S.M., AND SGT. SKETCHLEY, D.C.M.

1. Battle of Gravenstafel, April 22nd—23rd.
 2. „ St. Julien, April 24th—May 4th.
 3. „ Frezenberg, May 8th—13th.
 4. „ Bellewaarde, May 24th—25th.
- (See Chap. V.)

DIVISIONS engaged April 22nd—May 25th, 1915 :

1st Canadian.

28th, 27th, 5th, 4th, 50th, Lahore.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Cavalry Divisions.

Killed, wounded, and missing :

2,091 Officers. 58,169 other ranks.

The Battalion left billets at Boeschepe on April 8th and proceeded by bus to Ypres. It was dark when we reached the Grande Place. The Cloth Hall and St. Martin's Cathedral were wrapped in a mysterious gloom. We were conscious of a wide space, filled with moving bodies of troops, but unable to discern anything clearly. But it was not the time for such reflections. The order was to draw rations and go to the trenches, so the Battalion moved off through the Menin Gate, up the Zonnebeke Road to Frezenberg, and then struck off half right across country to the Polygon Wood in the south-east of the Salient.

Battalion Headquarters were in dug-outs in the mound known as the Butte de Polygon, now surmounted by an Australian War Memorial, close to the 'Squeaking Pump,' which was reputed to have founded the fame of the officer artist, who created that delightful character "Old Bill," and did much by his quaint humour to lighten our darkest hours. Two companies were in the front line, one in support in dug-outs in the wood, and one behind the wood. The Polygon Wood at this time was still little damaged, a wood chiefly of pines in a light soil with bare patches of sand at intervals; now every big tree is down and a thick undergrowth has entirely altered the landscape. The dug-outs were of French construction, not excavated many inches deep and so affording little protection either from rifle fire or the weather, but roofed with green pine needles and irregularly placed, so that they were well hidden from the air; this was very necessary as enemy aircraft were quite active. The French had made rather an artistic job of them and had written verses on the trees, while one romantic Poilu had named his dwelling "Villa ma Rose."

The Wood was not a 'wholesome' place. It was exposed to fire both from south and east, with a chance of a dropping bullet from the north; fortunately the contour made some of the ground 'dead.' One feature of life in the wood was a fair sized German field-gun, which precisely at the quarter to every hour in the twenty-four fired one shell in the direction of Battalion H.Q. The shell fell with a crash among the trees, but never damaged anything else.

The trenches lay east and south-east of the wood, opposite Reutel and Becelaere, and followed a most irregular line. The right half was split up into four sections, each holding a platoon, but not continuous, and the left company was separated from the right

by a long piece of trench, which was only held at night by a platoon from the supports in the wood. The parapets were bad, the dug-outs and traverses were few, and there was nothing in front but some coils of " piano " wire. The enemy was 200 yards away on the right, but on the extreme left within bombing distance. The right trench had been called Pall Mall and the left Whitehall, but these names never "caught on" amongst us. On April 8th B Company took the right hand trench and D the left, with C and A in support. We took over from the 2nd Battalion of the 146th Regiment of the French Army, who departed in their own casual way. One of their Platoon Commanders raised a smile on the face of his opposite number by giving him a little trench map, whereon the only dug-out was marked " Your Home " and then hurrying away after his men.

Morning gave an opportunity to view the situation. The French, it appeared, had not done much work on the parapets; which were by no means bullet proof, and a great deal of time had to be spent each night strengthening the front line defences. They had also not been active in harassing the enemy, who were discovered our first morning to be cooking their breakfasts in braziers on the top of the parapet ! An intimation that this must cease was of course sent over, but this provoked a reply of rifle grenades and the nasty little whizz-bang, that makes no noise till it hits the parapet. They had bigger guns too, that knocked our trenches about, and one day a hostile aeroplane dropped bombs at Battalion H.Q. In the first few days the French Artillery was behind us, and we had our first experience of the famous "75's," but our own artillery when it arrived was not numerous and very short of ammunition. It was a quiet period for the Salient, but it was clear from the first that it was a hotter place than Wulverghem, and casualties were more frequent.

On April 10th there was an inter-company relief and as usual the line was voted better than support.

On the 12th the 5th King's Own relieved us, and we went to billets in Ypres. There was now an opportunity to examine this famous old city by daylight. It was seriously damaged and there was occasional shelling, but the bulk of the Cloth Hall still stood and was not much more ruinous than it appears in the photographs taken in November, 1914. The civil population had by no means all left. Cafés did a good trade and shops were selling not only wine and cigars, but such useful articles for the trenches as refills for electric torches and solidified fuel. British troops abounded and no doubt their presence was known to the enemy though no one was supposed to go out till after dark. It was a curious interlude in a strenuous life. One scene comes back to memory, a boxing competition between two companies in a school playground with a British band playing and overhead a German Taube !

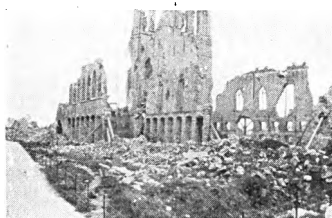
On the 15th the Battalion moved into the Lunatic Asylum, near the Dixmude Gate, and on the 17th returned to the trenches. This was the beginning of great events, for that evening Hill 60 was blown up and captured by the 13th Brigade. Parties from the 1st and 3rd Monmouthshire Battalions had been engaged in preparing for this event and had won by their success distinction as expert workers underground. A detailed description of these mining operations is given in Chapter IV. The British guns were going hard on both sides of the road as the Battalion marched out, and it was a relief to reach Frezenberg, and go across country before the Germans replied by shelling the roads ; the Staff had calculated correctly, and got the Battalion off the road in time.



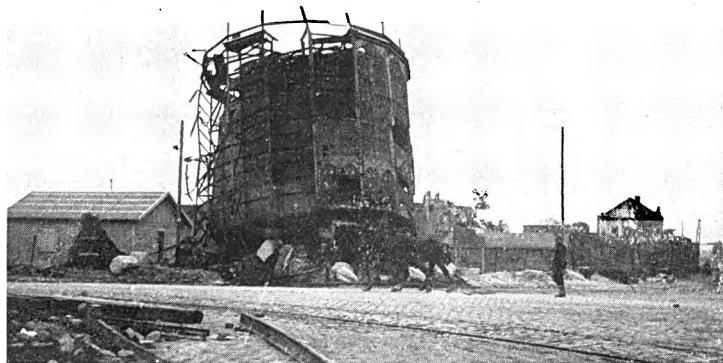
TEMPLARS HOUSE,
RUE DE LILLE.



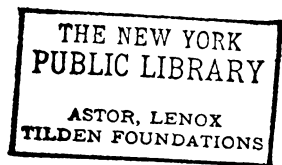
RAMPARTS.



CLOTH HALL RUINS.



THE WATER TOWER, YPRES.



On arriving in the trenches the Battalion found things much as before, and carried on with the usual routine, though there was a feeling of tension in the air. One obvious sign of trouble was that no relief arrived at the usual time. Companies relieved each other and relieved again, but the 5th King's Own never again appeared, and gradually news came of what was happening near enough, but yet so far off that we learned of it first from the English papers. The enemy clearly was stirring, and April 22nd saw the opening of a heavy bombardment a few miles to our north. They had shelled our billets in the Lunatic Asylum and destroyed, not a Battalion, but some officers' kits, so ran one rumour. The truth was that the kits were buried by the shelling, and later dug out by a fatigue party under the Sergeant-Drummer ! Then came authentic news of the first gas attack on April 22nd, the retreat of the French on the north of the Salient, the resistance of the Canadians, the advance of the enemy towards Ypres and the repeated British counter-attacks which held up the advance and recovered some of the lost ground.*

On the night of April 24th D Company was employed with two companies of the 1st K.O.Y.L.I. and 2nd King's Own in digging a new line for the Canadians after the counter-attack, but otherwise the Battalion had only to stand by in the Polygon Line, and April 29th is noted in the War Diary as a "very quiet day" At the same time casualties occurred day after day. On April 24th, 2nd Lieut. Wilfred Onions, the son of the well-known Miners' Leader, the late Mr. Alfred Onions, M.P., was fatally wounded as he was marching a party back to the dug-

** It is generally understood that the failure of the Germans to take full advantage of the confusion caused by the surprise of the gas attack, was due to not providing their own troops with sufficiently effective gas masks, to follow up the attack through their own gas. It seems that this fortunate omission prevented a complete break through.*

outs behind the Polygon Wood—the first fatal casualty among officers—and on May 1st, Lt. Martin the M.G. Officer was killed. He was a great loss, an officer greatly beloved by his own men—"My people," as he always called them—and a keen machine gunner. He had made a name for himself before the War in the world of science and applied himself with characteristic thoroughness to the study of his favourite weapon. On the morning of May 3rd, Lt. Crawford was seriously wounded in the head whilst firing over the parapet, the bullet striking the fore-sight of his rifle. Lts. Reed and Worton were also slightly wounded.

The general situation was worse than we knew. The gas attack had broken the line in the north of the Salient and enabled the Germans to bring their guns up on the Pilckem Ridge and adjoining high ground and enfilade the area held by the British, which was barely 6,000 yards wide by 9,000 yards deep. Of this area the Polygon Wood was the most easterly outpost. Such a position was clearly untenable both from an Infantry and an Artillery point of view, and was rapidly developing into a bottle shaped zone, which must have inevitably been pinched off at the neck with disastrous results. To avoid this danger and shorten the line, the G.O.C.-in C. ordered a withdrawal to a line approximately just east of Hooze Chateau and Frezenberg, south of St. Julien and converging on the Yser Canal near Boesinghe. This had the effect of shortening the front line by 5,000 yards.

The movement was commenced on the night of May 1st, by bringing back the guns to new positions and evacuating dumps. The occupation of the new front line by the supporting troops and the evacuation of the Polygon Wood was effected on the night of May 3rd. This operation on the 83rd Brigade

front began by withdrawing at 9.30 p.m. two companies each of the 2nd King's Own, 3rd Monmouth (B and D Coys.) and 1st K.O.Y.L.I. These companies were ordered to fall back as far as the new line, and stand fast there until the safe withdrawal of the other two companies of each Battalion was assured. The latter withdrew at 10.30 p.m., and in order to conceal the movement from the enemy, each of these companies was ordered to leave behind a covering party of one officer and 20 other ranks to fire occasional shots and send up Verey Lights from various points in the trenches, and finally fall back on the main body at midnight. The 3rd Monmouth covering parties were commanded by Lt. Reed (A Co.) and Lt. Bennett (C Co.) who carried out their difficult duties with complete success. The whole operation was under the control of officers posted by the Brigade at the N.W. corner of the wood, in telephone communication with Brigade H.Q., and they withdrew after all troops were clear. Amongst the officers detailed for this duty was Lt. H. A. Hodges (D Co.) In the retirement all ammunition and a considerable quantity of trench stores were brought back. As an indication of the success of the movement, the enemy were still firing on our empty trenches at 5 a.m.

In the meantime the three Battalions fell back along the railway, the 2nd King's Own and 1st K.O.Y.L.I. being withdrawn to huts west of Ypres, whilst the 3rd Monmouths turned off the railway to Verlorenhoek and followed the main road down to the G.H.Q. line at Potijze.

The trenches in the G.H.Q. line ran across the main road just east of Potijze Chateau, which was on the north side. Battalion H.Q. was at Lancer Farm, south of the road. May 4th was spent here, a dull, detestable day, with nothing to do and not much to eat, and heavy shells flying overhead into Ypres.

About 6 a.m. the enemy sent forward their first patrols and at 10 a.m. began bombarding the new front line, which they had registered some days earlier during construction. At 10.30 a.m. they were observed digging in at distances 400/700 yards away. At 5 p.m. the front line trenches on the north and centre of the 83rd Brigade front were reported as seriously damaged.

The evening of May 4th saw the beginning of the Battalion's hardest trial and greatest achievement. The strain and stress was all over within a week, but during that period the 3rd Monmouths were involved in some of the hardest fighting of the War, suffered heavy casualties, and though outnumbered by the enemy and without adequate artillery support, held up the German attack at a crucial point of the line.

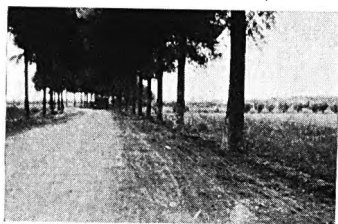
On this evening A Co. (Capt. Baker) and C Co. (Capt. Steel) moved up into support trenches and dug-outs north of the road at the western foot of the Frezenberg Ridge ; B Co. (Capt. Gattie) went up to reinforce the 1st York and Lancs. in the front line on the right of the Brigade, and D Co. (Major Lewis) remained in reserve at Potijze. (See Map page 60).

The new front line which had been hastily and poorly constructed suffered severely from the bombardment. So bad did conditions become that both the 2nd East Yorks and 5th King's Own were compelled that night to dig a new line just behind the original one. Casualties had been heavy and the wounded were removed with great difficulty during the night, whilst the dead had to be buried where they fell.

May 5th opened with a still more severe bombardment, and the front line troops were reported as being in a very exhausted condition. Quite early in the morning C company was called



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, YPRES.



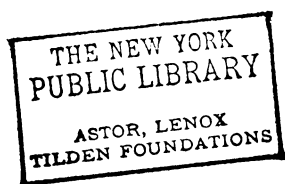
POPERINGHE—YPRES ROAD.



POTIJZE CROSSROADS.



ST. MARTIN'S CATHEDRAL, YPRES.



upon to reinforce the 2nd East Yorks on the south of the road. Their C.O., Lt.-Col. Pike, came up to show the way and guided by him the company crossed the road, and made diagonally up the ridge between Wilde Wood and Wilde Cottage to the railway. At this point Capt. Steel decided to advance with half the company north-east straight over the ridge. In the meantime he sent word down to Capt. Gorman, his second in command, to carry out the reinforcement with the other half company.

As Capt. Steel topped the ridge, he and his party came under full observation and lost heavily from machine-gun fire, and it was a marvel how anyone reached the front line. The success of the reinforcement was due to the gallant and unhesitating leadership of Capt. Steel. Nor was this all, he also brought his medical knowledge into splendid use and attended to the wounded, regardless of all danger. For these fine services he was awarded the Military Cross, the first officer of the Battalion to receive this honour. In the meantime, Capt. Gorman arrived at the head of the second half of the company, who were lying on the edge of the railway cutting. As casualties had been heavy, it was difficult to ascertain orders or get into communication with the first half which had disappeared over the ridge. Capt. Gorman decided to follow the railway, and on reaching the Frezenberg Level Crossing, he found the front line trench just over the crest of the ridge. This he reconnoitred under heavy shell fire for 80 yards without finding a living soul. The trenches, being on a forward slope and following a hedge and treeline, were an easy mark for the enemy artillery, who had the position absolutely "taped" and made it quite untenable. On leaving the trench to rejoin his men, Capt. Gorman was caught by a machine gun and fell wounded in the railway cutting, being hit in no less than eight places. His servant, Pte. Gray, pluckily

remained with him for a considerable time in a very exposed situation till ordered back. Capt. Gorman had a terrible experience, as the enemy heavily shelled the railway cutting and the adjoining Level Crossing; whilst he lay between the rails, these were twisted around him, and he received further wounds from shell splinters. Capt. Steel, after his reinforcement, reconnoitred the front line in search of the remainder of C Co., and eventually found Capt. Gorman. As the point where he lay was in full view of the enemy, it was impossible to do anything beyond rendering first aid.

A few minutes after Capt. Gorman was hit, Lt. Bennett was wounded getting out of the same trench. Realizing the impossibility of holding this trench, which was practically obliterated and completely exposed to machine-gun fire, Capt. Gorman gave orders for his men to reform behind the ridge. It was then that C.S.M. Gravenor attempted to carry out the reinforcement in a southerly direction across the level crossing to the front line held by the 1st York and Lancs., which lay 150 yards beyond. He was almost immediately wounded, but continued to encourage his men on, and for this gallant action he was awarded the D.C.M. and the Croix de Guerre avec Palmes.

The hostile machine-gunners in the Chapel on the Westhoek Road were now fully aware that a force was trying to advance by the level crossing, and kept up such a hot fire, that the remainder of the second half of C Company were driven back to dig-in in Wilde Wood just in their rear. Later in the day the survivors managed to work their way forward to a line of dug-outs behind Frezenberg. C Co. in the front line was relieved that night, and Captain Steel was able to get his company together again in the support line behind Frezenberg. For the next three nights, C Co. was busily engaged with their

much depleted strength in carrying rations and ammunition to the other three companies in the front line, and Capt. Steel personally saw to the rations for the hard pressed machine-gunners, who were attached to his company.

A Co. was in support of the 5th King's Own and in advance of that Battalion's reserve company. On the morning of the 5th, an hour after C Co.'s advance, the 5th King's Own asked for reinforcements. It was arranged to reinforce by platoons, and Capt. R. A. Lewis led off with No. 1. Our Artillery support was inadequate, the ground sloped downwards for a considerable distance towards the fire trench, and the only communication trench was only partially dug, and ended altogether before it reached the front line. As soon as Capt. Lewis appeared over the ridge, his party came under heavy shrapnel and rifle fire, and suffered severely. The leading files were able to get through this, until they had almost reached the cross-road running through Frezenberg; here they were heavily enfiladed by a machine-gun. Capt. R. A. Lewis was badly hit and most of his men became casualties. They managed however to obtain some cover from view in the shell-pitted ground, where they lay until night. One of the party, Pte. I. Skidmore, was afterwards awarded the D.C.M. for attending to wounded men under very heavy fire, and then attempting, until shot down, to get back with information as to the position of the enemy machine-guns.

The experience of these two companies shewed that any reinforcement by daylight must be very costly, as there were no proper communication trenches, and the advance had to take place across the open on a forward slope with very little support from our artillery. After dark for these few nights it was curiously quiet, and probably the enemy was too busy consolidating to give trouble.

D Co. (Major W. A. Lewis) remained in reserve in the G.H.Q. line during May 5th. Shelling had been severe, and Lt. Hodges and several men were wounded. That night it moved up with A Co. to relieve the East Yorks and the reinforcements they had received during the day from C Co. The East Yorks had suffered very severely during that day, and one company had only 20 effectives left. A and D Companies occupied the front line from just south of the Zonnebeke Road to the railway, and to the north in touch with them were the 2nd King's Own, who had the same night relieved the 5th King's Own. The machine-gun section were called upon the same evening to relieve the East Yorks machine-gunners, whose guns had been knocked out. One gun was placed just south of the road, where it commanded a fine field of fire and the main road, and the other, on the right of D Co., commanded the railway. Communication was kept up across the road by throwing messages in empty jam tins. The same evening Battalion H.Q. moved up to dug-outs on the west of Frezenberg, about 100 yards in rear of C Co.

The shelling slackened at nightfall, and so permitted the carrying out of reliefs.

During this night and the following night the 1st K.O.Y.L.I. were engaged, full strength, in digging shelter trenches against shell fire at various points just behind the front line. Much of this work was abortive, as these narrow trenches would not remain open for long without revetment, which was not available.

Next day, May 6th, there was shelling, but less severe than on the 5th, and no attempt at an attack by the enemy. They were no doubt bringing up their artillery in the attempt to push through to the Channel Ports. There was only a thinly held line to bar their way, but happily it stood.

May 7th opened with a heavier bombardment which caused many casualties. In A Co., 2nd Lt. Sorby was so severely wounded that he died the same night, and C.S.M. Gill was killed. In the evening Lt. Worton, who had only returned from hospital the same day, was killed whilst taking up a party of C Co. to the front line. D Co. lost 2nd Lt. Townsend, killed, whilst its commander, Major Lewis, was wounded.

So dawned the most critical day of the great battle, the 8th of May.* The position of the 3rd Monmouths was at the apex of the Salient, two companies in the front line with one in support and the fourth company not far away to the south. Half a mile to the north was their sister Battalion, the 1st Monmouthshires, in the 84th Brigade. Holding the position with them were their comrades of the 83rd Brigade, the 2nd King's Own to the north, and to the south the 1st K.O.Y.L.I., who relieved the 1st Yorks and Lancs. and B Co. 3rd Monmouths on the night of May 7th. The Brigade had been in the line without relief since April 17th. Its numbers were greatly reduced, and the artillery behind were few in numbers and woefully short of ammunition. As indicating the desperate position of the British troops in respect to Artillery support, it is now authoritatively stated that the heavy British guns during this period of the

**The general disposition of the 28th Division (see Map page 36) on the opening of this day was across the Ypres-Zonnebeke main road and Roulers Railway, just east of Frezenberg. On the north, about 1,500 yards south of St. Julien were the 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers (85th Brigade), next to them were the 1st Monmouthshires and 1st Suffolks (84th Brigade) with one Company of the 2nd Cheshires sandwiched in between them ; further to the south and across the main road and railway were the 2nd King's Own, 3rd Monmouthshires A and D Co.'s, with C Co. in support, 1st K.O.Y.L.I. with B Co. of the 3rd Monmouthshires in support on the extreme south (see Map page 60). Of the remaining Battalions of the 83rd Brigade, the 1st York and Lancs. and 5th King's Own were in huts west of Ypres, and the 2nd East Yorks in the G.H.Q. line at Potijze.*

2nd Battle of Ypres were limited to :—

One 9.2 inch howitzer.

Eight 60 pdrs.

Four old six inch howitzers.

Twelve obsolete 4.7 inch guns.

Against our 25 guns, it has been ascertained from official sources that the Germans brought into action 183 guns, consisting of :—

One 16 inch howitzer.

Twenty-four 8 inch howitzers.

Eighty-four 6 inch howitzers.

Eight 5.2 inch guns.

Eighteen 4 inch guns.

Forty-eight old German or captured " heavies".

There was nothing except the 27th and 28th Divisions between the enemy and Ypres, and they got as far as Verlorenhoek, but the British soldier proverbially does not know when he is beaten, and the Germans were kept back somehow till troops from the 4th Division Reserve were brought up in the evening to fill the many gaps. The enemy on their side were " all out " to push through. They had guns on the high ground enfilading the British position and smothering our artillery, they had field guns well forward, they had innumerable machine-guns, and six Divisions of their best and freshest troops against the depleted ranks of the war-worn and weary 27th and 28th Divisions.

Their bombardment opened up at 5.30 a.m., and the trenches lying in the forward slope were badly damaged and almost untenable. The first enemy infantry attack took place at 8.30 a.m., and was driven off. The bombardment re-opened, and, at 9 a.m., the enemy again attacked and were again driven back. After a further hour's intense shelling the front line was practically obliterated, and there were few survivors to hold up the attack.

Orders reached the 3rd Monmouths and 2nd King's Own from Brigade H.Q. about 10 a.m. to evacuate the front line trenches. Capt. Baker began withdrawing his Company, but immediately the enemy opened up an intense machine-gun fire, followed by shrapnel, which practically swept away the few survivors of A and D Co.'s. Capt. Baker was killed a few yards behind the front line. The order apparently never reached Lt. Reed, and he and a few men of A Co. with some of the machine-gunners held on gallantly and resisted to the last. Lt. Reed was finally killed, and no officer of A Co. was left, and only 13 survivors amongst the men could be mustered.

D Co. stuck it gallantly. They lost their only officer, Capt. James Lancaster, beloved of all who knew him, and that fine type of Territorial Soldier, C.S.M. Lippiatt, who did such wonderful work training recruits, almost singlehanded, at Abergavenny in August and September, 1914. Every sergeant in the company was killed, and only 16 men answered the roll call next morning. The machine-gun section was involved in this slaughter, and had one gun destroyed, but one of the few survivors brought back the lock of the other.

Early in the day C Co. came into action in support, but little by little was forced back on Battalion H.Q., owing to the exposure of their flank from the north. Stragglers were coming down the road; so Col. Gough ordered Sergeant Jenkins to collect them in a trench in rear, and for his fine services on this occasion, coupled with good work on the telephone, this old soldier received the D.C.M. This party and remnants of the Battalion were led by Col. Gough in a counter-attack, but could only advance as far as the western edge of Frezenberg. In this advance R.S.M. Hatton was seriously wounded.

He had accompanied the Adjutant, Capt. Ramsden, in many visits to the front line during the last terrible days, and with him had often helped to stiffen the defence by cheery encouragement. He now refused to be carried back and was soon taken prisoner. His wounds were of such a nature that he was one of the first prisoners of war to be exchanged, but unhappily he died, much regretted, at the close of the War. He was a fine type of Regular soldier, from whom all ranks learnt much.

After hanging on to this position for some time and holding up the advance, orders came about 11 a.m. from the Brigade to retire on the G.H.Q. line near Potijze.

Lt. McLean, M.O., 3rd Monmouths and Lt. Marrack, M.O., 1st Monmouths had established a Dressing Station just east of Verlorenhoek; at 11 a.m. they received orders to retire their detachments, but, after sending back the stretcher-bearers they found a number of wounded still coming back and so decided to carry on until the enemy were practically in the village, and Lt. McLean was wounded.

Just before mid-day the 2nd East Yorks were ordered to counter-attack and after reaching Verlorenhoek with heavy casualties had to fall back on the G.H.Q. line.

At 2.30 p.m. the 1st York and Lancs. and 3rd Middlesex counter-attacked north and south of the railway, remnants of the 2nd East Yorks, 1st K.O.Y.L.I., 2nd King's Own, 3rd Monmouths, 5th King's Own, going up into support. In this action Lord Richard Cavendish, C.O. 5th King's Own, was wounded.

At 3.30 p.m. the 2nd East Surreys and 3rd Royal Fusiliers arrived and were sent up in support. The counter-attack, practically unsupported by artillery,

made slow progress and by 5.30 p.m. was held up at a line running from Verlorenhoek south over the railway. This line was consolidated with fresh troops during the night, and, eventually, became the approximate position of the front line until the British advance in 1917.

In the meantime the Battalion, with the exception of B Co., was withdrawn and marched back to the huts at Vlamertinghe.

B Co. throughout the battle was separated from the rest of the Battalion. On May 4th it reinforced the 1st York and Lancs., coming under the orders of the C.O. of that Battalion, and took over a trench, on the extreme right of the Brigade and Division, from a company of the K.R.R., 27th Division. The next unit on the right was Princess Pat's. The position was in the front of the wood near Red Lodge, about 300 yards south of the Roulers railway. The trench was newly dug like the rest of the line and not deep; it was also on a forward slope and the only communication trench was full of mud, and impassable. Further, it lay along a lane with a hedge on one side and a line of poplars on the other, so that it was an admirable mark for the enemy's artillery observers on the Westhoek Ridge. On May 5th, and, in a smaller degree, on May 6th and 7th, the enemy bombarded the trench, but it was so narrow and well traversed, that the damage was comparatively slight and casualties not as heavy as might be expected after such a bombardment. Sergt. Nash, a Territorial with much service, was killed on the 6th. It was peculiarly noticeable here that the nights were absolutely quiet, and it was safe to walk about in the open behind the front line. Rations and letters came up regularly and one fortunate officer even received a tin of cooked sausages! On the night of May 7th the company was relieved by a company of the 1st

K.O.Y.L.I. under Capt. Mallinson. The remainder of the first K.O.Y.L.I. held the line as far north as the Roulers Railway. B Co. went into support in the wood just behind the line, which was adorned with French dug-outs like those in the Polygon Wood. At daybreak on May 8th B Co. came in for the shelling which the enemy poured on the whole line. They were evidently searching for a battery behind the wood, but did not neglect the wood itself and killed two officers, Lt. Groves and 2nd Lt. Palmer, in one dug-out. Fortunately other casualties were few, as the shelling was mostly directed at one portion of the wood. Meanwhile the 1st K.O.Y.L.I., who had suffered much from the shelling, beat off an infantry attack by rifle fire. Later a second attack began, reinforcements seemed necessary, and B Co. dashed across the open to the front line. A dip in the ground, and the masking of the enemy's guns by the attack, favoured the advance, and in consequence the casualties were few, but Capt. Gardner was shot through the heart as he entered the trench, a great loss. He was one of the finest looking and best soldiers in the Battalion. 2nd Lt. Paul was wounded about the same time.

The line, which had given way elsewhere, held here, the enemy appeared to have had enough, and the afternoon in the immediate neighbourhood proved quiet, but there was great danger of the company being surrounded. The P.P.C.L.I. on the right were forced back to their support trench, and on the left, to the north of the wood, there was a large gap, both flanks being more or less in the air. Accordingly Capt. Gattie went to the H.Q. of the Rifle Brigade, near Bellewaarde Lake, for reinforcements to protect these exposed flanks, especially to the north, and was able to guide them as far as the P.P.C.L.I. support trench, but machine-gun fire prevented them from advancing further until dark. Meanwhile the party of Monmouths and K.O.Y.L.I. were in fact in advance

of all other British troops, with both flanks exposed. Towards evening the rifle fire of our troops, counter-attacking up the railway, was beginning to take them in the rear, so that it was clearly impossible to hold on. The party was now completely cut off from its own Brigade, so Capt. Gattie proceeded to Brigade H.Q. for orders, leaving the remains of B Co. under 2nd Lt. Somerset. Under cover of darkness the men of both units filed out of the right end of the trench and were sorted out, and the men in the wood were ordered to rejoin. This party had received no orders to advance in the morning and had been left behind. The senior soldier, Cpl. Sketchley, had kept them together during the day, and now led 30 men out to join the company. The enemy attack up the railway on his left had come so near that his party had taken a prisoner, and they now brought him with them. Cpl. Sketchley received the D.C.M. for his great initiative and pluck at this period. Capt. Mallinson was awarded the D.S.O. for his fine leadership and dogged defence of these trenches.

The enemy did not attempt to harass the withdrawal, and the whole mixed party under Capt. Mallinson got safely back to the Rifle Brigade H.Q. After a halt there, they proceeded across the railway to the Potijze Road, intending to rejoin the Brigade at Vlamertinghe.

At the G.H.Q. line a Staff Officer ordered the party to the trenches again, so just as dawn was breaking on the 9th, they turned off the road, near the trench occupied on May 4th, and advanced across open fields to the front line. There was only room on their immediate front for the K.O.Y.L.I., so the Monmouthshire party occupied some little dugouts a hundred yards in rear.

Here the remains of B Co. spent the day, among them two N.C.O.'s, who, later in the war, made the

supreme sacrifice, Sgt. H. Lewis and Sgt. A. Howells, that fine old soldier who won the D.C.M. in the South African War and a bar to it in the Great War. Sgt. Owen of C Co. joined the party during the day, also two men, who were shelled out of buildings on the left. The enemy paid no attention to B Co., probably not knowing of their existence, but fired heavy stuff overhead into Ypres all day. It was a day of inaction that tried the nerves far more than a day of hard fighting. Luckily it was not a day of starvation too, for early in the morning some foragers found a broken down water-cart, bread and tinned honey dumped in the road.

In the evening Lt. Merton Jones and C.Q.M.S. Morris arrived with rations and water, after they had almost walked into the German line whilst looking for the Company. Some cavalry too arrived as a relief, and finally in the early morning of the 10th, B Company reached the huts at Vlamertinghe, where the rest of the Battalion had been for twenty-four hours.

The casualties, April 23rd—May 8th, had been enormous, and the Brigade Diary records these as being 128 officers and 4,379 men, killed, wounded and missing.

In the 3rd Monmouths A and D Companies had one officer and less than 30 men left, including those on H.Q. duties, and B and C Companies had 3 officers and barely 100 men.

During all this period the Battalion in the line was admirably served by the transport, under Lt. Merton Jones. This officer not only displayed great courage and judgment in bringing ammunition, trench stores and rations up at night, but also in constantly reconnoitring routes up to the line by day.

In this way he saved many lives and never failed us in the line. For these fine services he received a mention and the French Croix de Guerre.

The method of feeding troops in the line was for rations to be delivered in bulk to the Quartermaster's Stores, and there packed in sandbags, six rations to a bag and twelve bags to a pony, the bags tied together for ease of carriage by man or horse. Water was taken up in water-carts, and ammunition and trench stores in limbers or G.S. wagons. The C.Q.M.S. of each company was in charge of his company's rations. He used to report with his party every night at his company headquarters, and act as postman both ways, a welcome figure from the outside world.

All transport from Ypres had to come through the Menin Gate, and along either the Menin or Zonnebeke Roads, and had to dodge the bursts of German shelling. The Quartermaster's Stores were at first in Ypres in the Boulevard Malou, but the heavy shelling at the end of April drove them out of this place, and after various moves finally back to Poperinghe, and only the first line transport remained in lines in a field west of Ypres.

The confused fighting of the early days of May naturally involved the transport. A few days before the retirement from the Polygon Wood, orders were received to take up two day's rations in bulk, besides the day's rations in bags. C.Q.M.S. Leeson was entrusted with this duty and had the rations in A.S.C. wagons; his orders were to dump them off the main road just east of Frezenberg, from which point ponies were to take them up to the dump by the Polygon Wood. Unfortunately one of the wagons fell into a shell hole as far back as Potijze Chateau, two miles from the destined dump, and all hands had to work all night to get the rations up. The sun was rising

by the time the job was finished, but a kindly mist came to our aid and the German gunner, ever a man of routine, was sure that no transport was on the road at 3 a.m. so betook himself to sleep or breakfast !

The retirement added greatly to the Transport Officer's difficulties, even Brigade was not too sure of the whereabouts of battalions and companies, and reconnaissance was needed before ration parties could be sent forward. The line was by no means continuous and on May 8th Captain Walker, the York and Lancaster Regt., the senior Transport Officer of the Brigade, who had with him C.Q.M.S. Morris of B and Dunn of C Companies of the 3rd Monmouths and a string of pack ponies, advanced between gaps in our own line almost up to the enemy. Fortunately the ponies were successfully retired from the rear and no harm done. This was indeed a night of confusion, for the transport could find no 3rd Monmouths anywhere, and finally gave their rations to a Battalion of Warwicks, who had been hurried up by bus, and had nothing but iron rations.

The story of the second battle, necessarily told in a fragmentary manner, now draws to a close. On the morning of May 10th all that was left of the 3rd Monmouths was collected at the huts at Vlamertinghe.* They had gone through much since April 17th ; the fighting of the last week was an experience that the whole course of the Great War could hardly surpass. Now there was time to learn and to regret our losses, but everyone at Vlamertinghe had cause to be thankful that he was alive, and that so many of his comrades were spared.

The whole of the 83rd Brigade was reduced to 600 men. A Battalion was formed of these remnants

**Here were also the remnants of the 1st Monmouthshires (84th Brigade) who only mustered 3 officers and 130 other ranks. Like the 3rd Battalion they had felt the devastating effect of the main German attack.*

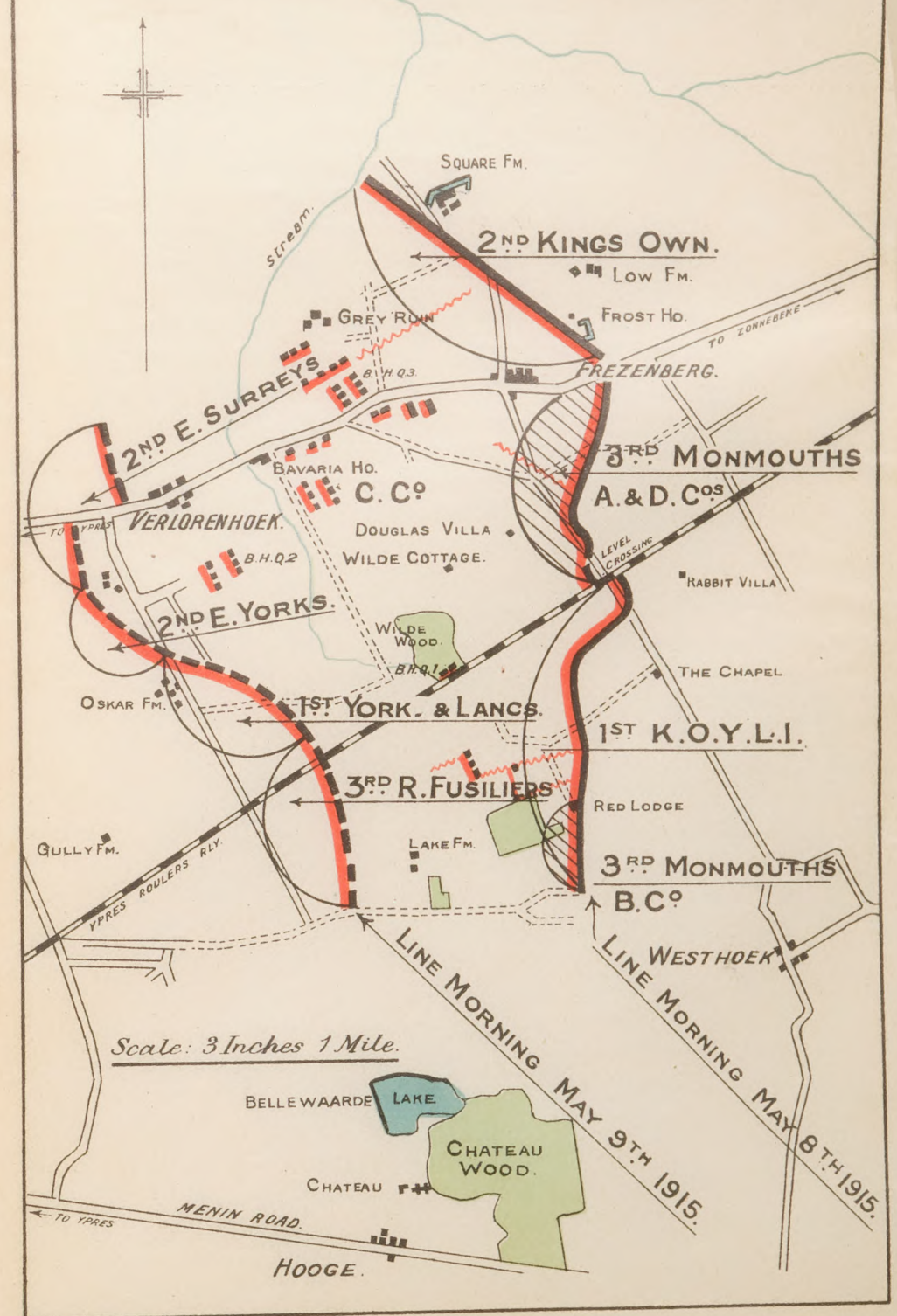
with Lt. Col. Gough in command. Captain Gattie commanded the 3rd Monmouths and Captain Steel the East Yorks, who had no officers of their own left. The same evening, this composite Battalion took over a piece of the G.H.Q. line in front of Potijze Chateau and remained for twenty-four hours, till relieved by the Queen's Bays of the 1st Cavalry Division on the night of the 11th. The 3rd Monmouths, had few casualties on the 11th, but amongst them was the C.O. who was wounded. He proceeded to hospital and Major Bridge took over the command. The Battalion moved on the night of the 11th to bivouacs in fields east of Poperinghe. Here piles of parcels, which could not be got up to the line during the battle, awaited us, many, alas!, addressed to men who had no further need of parcels. The remains of the 3rd Monmouths were now organised into two companies, Captain Gattie taking command of what was left of A and B, and Captain Steel taking C and D.

On the 14th a move was made west into France, to the village of Winnezele. Here the Battalion remained resting and reorganising till the 22nd, and a few officers were able to have a short leave. On May 21st the G.O.C.-in-C., Sir John French, inspected the Brigade and made the following speech, with which this chapter may fittingly close.

“ I came over to say a few words to you and to
 “ tell you how much I, as Commander-in-Chief of
 “ this Army, appreciate the splendid work that you
 “ have all done during the recent fighting. You
 “ have fought the Second Battle of Ypres, which will
 “ rank amongst the most desperate and hardest
 “ fights of the war. You may have thought,
 “ because you were not attacking the enemy, that
 “ you were not helping to shorten the War. On the
 “ contrary, by your splendid endurance and bravery
 “ you have done a great deal to shorten it. In this,
 “ the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans tried by

“ every means in their power to get possession of that
 “ unfortunate town. They concentrated large forces
 “ of troops and artillery, and further than this, they
 “ had recourse to that mean and dastardly practice,
 “ hitherto unheard of in civilized warfare, namely
 “ the use of asphyxiating gases. You have per-
 “ formed the most difficult, arduous, and terrific task
 “ of withstanding a stupendous bombardment by
 “ heavy artillery, probably the fiercest artillery fire
 “ ever directed against troops, and warded off the
 “ enemy’s attacks with magnificent bravery. By
 “ your steadiness and devotion both the German
 “ plans were frustrated. He was unable to get
 “ possession of Ypres—if he had done this, he would
 “ probably have succeeded in preventing neutral
 “ powers from intervening—and he was also unable
 “ to distract us from delivering our attack in con-
 “ junction with the French in the Arras-Armentières
 “ district. Had you failed to repulse his attacks
 “ and made it necessary for more troops to be sent to
 “ your assistance, our operations in the south might
 “ not have been able to take place and would certainly
 “ not have been as successful as they have been.
 “ Your colours have many famous names emblazoned
 “ on them, but none will be more famous or more
 “ well deserved than that of the Second Battle of Ypres.
 “ I want you one and all to understand how thoroughly
 “ I realize and appreciate what you have done. I
 “ wish to thank you, each officer, non-commissioned
 “ officer, and man for the services you have rendered
 “ by doing your duty so magnificently, and I am sure
 “ that your Country will thank you too.”

83RD BRIGADE FRONT MAY 8TH 9TH 1915.



THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS, W.O.'s AND SENIOR
N.C.O.'s WHO WENT INTO THE LINE WITH THE
BATTALION, WITH CASUALTIES UP TO MAY 11th,
1915.

OFFICER COMMANDING :

Lt. Col. H. W. Worsley Gough. Wounded May 11.

SECOND IN COMMAND:

Major W. S. Bridge.

ADJUTANT :

Captain V. B. Ramsden.

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR :

T. Hatton. Wounded May 8.

QUARTER MASTER :

Lt. A. A. Fry.

REGIMENTAL QUARTERMASTER SERGEANT :

W. M. Porter.

TRANSPORT OFFICERS :

Lt. J. Merton Jones.

2nd Lt. W. Bridge.

TRANSPORT SERGEANT :

J. Connolly.

MACHINE GUN OFFICER :

Lt. C. H. G. Martin. Killed May 1.

MACHINE GUN SERGEANT :

W. M. Davies.

MEDICAL OFFICER :

Lt. G. D. Maclean, R.A.M.C. Wounded May 8.

A COMPANY.

Capt. R. L. Baker. Killed May 8.

„ R. A. Lewis. Wounded May 5.

Lieut. C. S. Reed. Killed May 8.

„ R. M. Derry.

2nd Lt. C. M. C. Sorby. Died of wounds, May 8.

C.S.M. J. T. Gill. Killed May 6.

C Q.M.S. G. H. T. Powell.

B COMPANY.

Capt. K. F. D. Gattie (Adjutant 13/10/14—31/3/15)
 „ R. O. Gardner. Killed May 8.
 Lieut. F. N. Groves. Killed May 8.
 2nd Lt. W. L. Palmer. Killed May 8.
 „ „ W. H. B. Somerset.
 C.S.M. J. Baxter.
 C.Q.M.S. J. Morris.

C COMPANY.

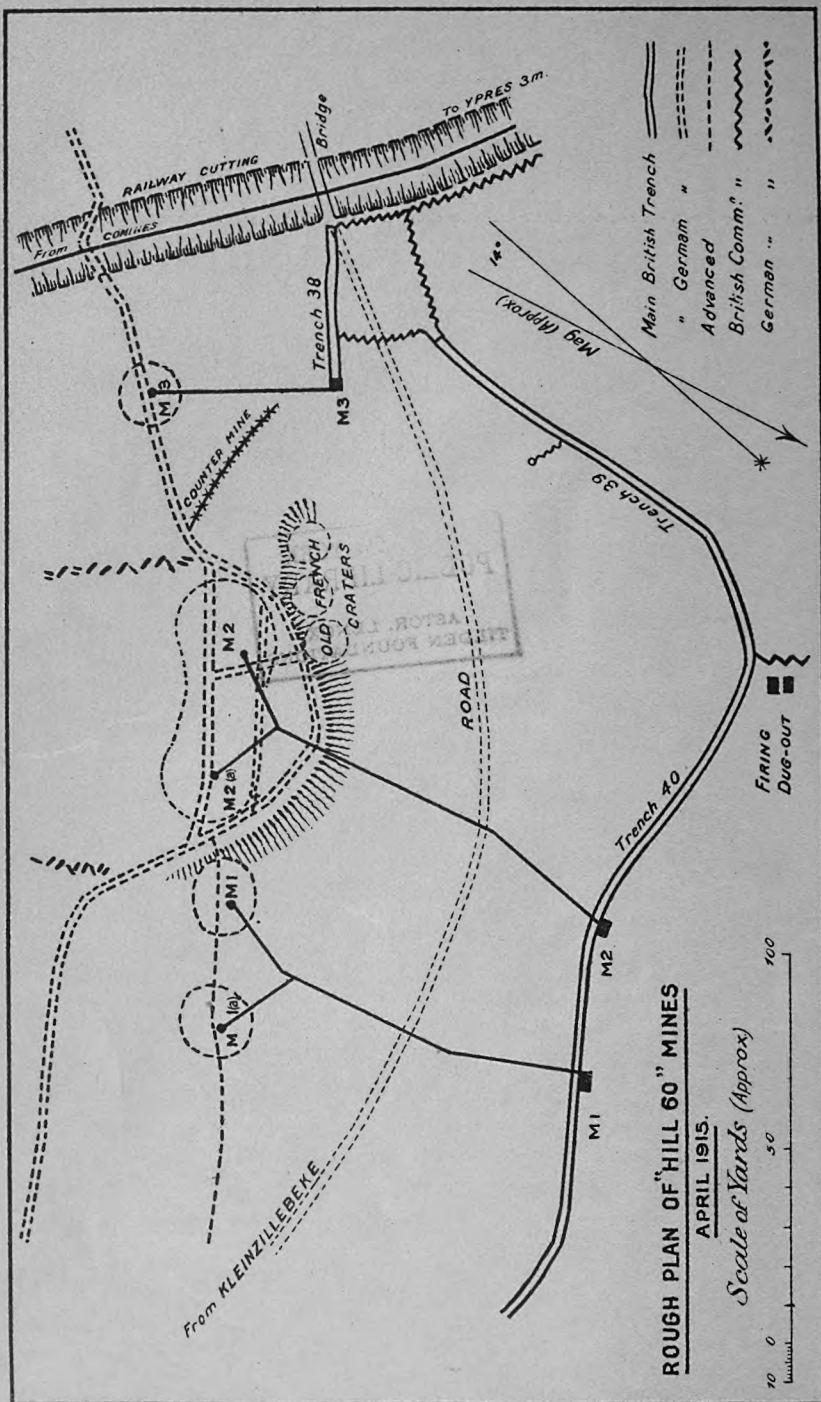
Capt. O. W. D. Steel.
 Capt. B. M. P. Gorman. Wounded May 5.
 Lieut. G. Bennett. Wounded May 5.
 „ W. P. Abbott, attached 171st Tunnelling Co.
 „ L. D. Whitehead. Wounded March 17.
 2nd Lt. T. I. L. Lloyd. Gassed May 7.
 C.S.M. G. A. Gravenor. Wounded May 5.
 C.Q.M.S. L. A. H. Dunn.

D COMPANY.

Capt. W. A. Lewis. Wounded May 7.
 „ J. Lancaster. Killed May 8.
 Lieut. H. A. Hodges. Wounded May 5.
 2nd Lt. G. W. Lancaster att'ch'd 171st Tunnelling Co.
 Wounded March 3.
 2nd Lt. W. Onions. Killed April 24.
 „ „ H. V. Townsend. Killed May 6.
 C.S.M. G. H. Lippiatt. Killed May 8.
 C.Q.M.S. T. Leeson.

The following officers joined from England before the second Battle of Ypres.

Lieut. E. J. O'Connor. D Company.
 „ F. S. Crawford. C „ Wounded May 3.
 „ J. P. Worton. C „ Killed May 7.
 2nd Lt. C. M. Paul. B „ Wounded May 8.



CHAPTER IV.

MINING OPERATIONS AT HILL 60.

MARCH—APRIL, 1915.

BY

CAPT. W. P. ABBOTT AND CPL. DURHAM.

It will be of interest to follow the movements of the Officers and men of the Monmouthshire Regiment, who left their Battalions in order to engage in mining work.

The General Staff had decided that mining on a much bigger scale than had hitherto been undertaken in warfare was needed, and, accordingly, the 3rd Battalion, whilst at Steenwoorde, received orders to detail 1 Officer and 40 other ranks with experience in mining, to proceed to Ypres to engage in this work. A more suitable Battalion could not have been chosen as the majority of the N.C.O.s and men were miners in civil life.

On February 27th, 1915, 2nd. Lt. G. W. Lancaster, himself a Mining Engineer, together with 40 other ranks, including Sgt. Powles, Cpl. Hoare and L/Cpl. Leonard, left Steenwoorde by motor-bus for Ypres. The party was given a hearty send-off by the Battalion, but their feeling of pride at being chosen for this very important work was tempered by regret at leaving the Battalion.

They were accompanied by a similar party from the 1st Monmouthshires under Lt. Burnyeat, also a Mining Engineer. It is interesting to note that these two Officers were members of families, which have been long and honourably associated with the mining industry in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

On arrival at Ypres, the Monmouthshires were attached to the Northumbrian Field Company, R.E., (O.C., Major Pollard, D.S.O.), and were billeted in

the Convent School in the Rue de Lille, almost under the shadow of the famous Cloth Hall. It is of pathetic interest to recall that, on entering the School, the men found the scholars' books, papers and pens lying about the desks, evidence of their hurried departure when the bombardment of the first Battle of Ypres commenced in the autumn of 1914. The men of the two Battalions at once became chums, and during the whole time they were together the most harmonious relations prevailed, just as was the case during the amalgamation of the three Battalions after their terrible experience in the second Battle of Ypres.

On St. David's Day (March 1st) Lt. Burnyeat took a party up to the front line in the St. Eloi sector to commence work on mining, but this was found impossible owing to heavy enemy shelling. The following night another ineffectual attempt was made, and, again on March 3rd, a party moved up under 2nd Lt. Lancaster. On the way up Pte. Nat Lewis, of Tredegar, was hit in the leg, but pluckily carried on, although on arrival at the front line his boot was found to be full of blood. After having his wound dressed he was able to make his way to a Field Ambulance. The enemy continued a heavy bombardment of our trenches, so 2nd Lt. Lancaster had no alternative but to withdraw his men. Whilst leading them back, he was seriously wounded and had to be carried to a Field Ambulance, from which he was sent to England.*

The idea of mining at St. Eloi was abandoned and the men had a few days' rest in billets. About a week later a number of specially enlisted men from England joined the Company. They had been

**This officer saw strenuous fighting throughout the War, he was three times severely wounded and finally lost his life in 1918, whilst attached to the 15th Welch, owing to an act of treachery on the part of a captured German. He was a fine resolute leader, and won the Military Cross.*

recruited by Lt. Col. Norton Griffiths, M.P., and had been engaged on the construction of the London Tube Railways, sewers and work of that description. These men, together with the Monmouthshires and some of the Northumbrians, who were miners, were formed into the 171st Tunnelling Company, R.E.,—the first Company of this kind to be formed in France.

It was then decided to start work on mining Hill 60, so called because the maps of the district shewed that its summit was 60 metres above sea level. It could scarcely be dignified by the title of a hill, but, owing to the flatness of the surrounding country, its occupation by the enemy gave them a fine field of view behind our lines, and the purpose of these operations was to dislodge them from this point of vantage. Our trenches lay at the foot of the hill with the enemy line about 100/120 yards away and above us. The hill was on the north side of the railway cutting and partly formed from the debris excavated from the cutting. This loose ground together with its clayey nature made tunnelling a difficult operation.

Accordingly, on March 8th, mining was started by the 171st Tunnelling Company, R.E., under Col. Jerome, C.B., C.R.E. 28th Division, with Major Griffiths in command of mining operations. It was estimated that saps driven from a point some few feet below our own front line, with a rising gradient of about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to the yard to allow of free drainage, would be about 30 feet below the summit of the hill—a suitable depth for the charges.

The French had already started a sap from Trench 38—an advance trench on the Southern side of the Hill—and had driven it in some 20 yards before leaving it. This sap was named M3 and was very small in size—3 feet $\times$ 2 feet inside timbering—giving very little room for men to work, whilst all the debris

had to be placed in sandbags and dragged back by a rope. This made the rate of progress each day considerably less than that of the other saps, but, owing to the fact that part of it was already driven and that the total drivage was less, and also owing to circumstances which will be related later, it was the first sap to be finished and charged. Those who knew this sap will remember that the body of a French soldier had been built into the parapet by the mouth of the sap.

The two new saps were driven from Trench 40, a little to the north of M3, and were named M1 and M2. These were started from small shafts about 8 feet deep, sunk in our front line. A small sump was made at the bottom of each shaft from which the water was bailed out by buckets. The saps commenced with a size of 4 feet $\times$ 3 feet 6 inches inside timber, and were timbered throughout, this being made necessary by the yielding and treacherous nature of the ground. After the saps had been driven half-way, the size was slightly reduced and the branches to the powder chambers still further decreased to 3 feet 2 inches $\times$ 3 feet, but this final section proved to be too small, and caused much trouble when the mines were being laid.

The work of excavating was done by two men at the face of each sap. Special precaution had to be taken in these operations to prevent any sound reaching the enemy. Work had to be carried on in an uncanny silence, and, even when the powder chambers were being excavated, the enemy were quite unaware of the work going on immediately below their front line. The debris from the face of the sap was placed carefully in sandbags and loaded on small trolleys, which were worked back noiselessly over wooden rails to the bottom of the shaft. Here the sandbags were raised to the surface and stacked in the trench until night time, when they were used by

the Infantry for repairing the trenches, any surplus being emptied behind the line in ground dead to the view of the enemy. The men did 24 hours at a time in the line, 2 hours in the sap and 4 hours out. During their 4 hours out they helped to dispose of the sandbags brought out from the sap, and carried up material, including the necessary timber, which was already cut to the required size, in order to obviate the noise of cutting timber in the saps.

Ventilation was a source of difficulty as the blower fans provided were too noisy, but, eventually, small blacksmiths' bellows were used with hose pipes attached, leading to the face of the saps. Lighting was provided by the use of candles until the mines were being charged, when electric hand torches were used, but these were not very satisfactory, owing to the batteries rapidly running down.

The rate of drivage in M1 and M2 under the most favourable conditions was from 12 feet to 14 feet per day, although on one occasion one sap, manned entirely by Monmouthshire men, actually drove 16½ feet. This was the result of a test made by Lt. Burnyeat, in order to prove that our men were as efficient miners as the specially enlisted men, and on this occasion our men outdrove the others by 2½ feet in 24 hours. Over the whole job the average rate of drivage was about 10 feet per day from the completion of the trench shafts.

About the third week in March Lt. Burnyeat was wounded and returned to England. On March 24th, Lt. W. P. Abbott (also a Mining Engineer) left the 3rd Monmouths and joined the mining party, remaining with them until he contracted enteric fever, and was sent to hospital, shortly before the Hill was blown up.

At that early stage of the War trench maps were not so elaborate and accurate as they afterwards

became, so that the only method of fixing the position of the enemy trenches was by the use of aeroplane photographs. This was not as simple as it might appear, owing to lens distortion, but that it was successful, was proved by the demolition of the enemy trenches when the mines were fired. The height of the enemy trenches above ours was found by means of the use of an Abney level, which was sighted through a steel loop-hole plate in the parapet.

The lengths of saps M1 and M2 were about 110 yards, and when driven far enough were formed into branch saps which formed the powder chambers, making four in all. The actual work of excavation was completed by April 10th. The powder chambers were lined with waterproof sheets and the powder was carried in 100lb. bags. This made the work of laying the mines very arduous, as these heavy bags had to be handled in a very confined space.

The charges were :—

- M1 2,000 lb. gunpowder in each of the two chambers.
- M2 2,700 lb. gunpowder in each of the two chambers.
- M3 500 lb. guncotton laid direct in the sap.

The amount required, as worked out by the formula used by the Engineers, was about two-and-a-half tons, but 100 per cent extra was added to be on the safe side and to give Fritz a little bit extra for luck. The success of the explosion shewed that the extra amount was not wasted.

When the mines were charged, arrangements were made for four separate means of firing them in order to ensure success. Duplicate electric firing cables were connected to each mine as well as instantaneous and ordinary safety fuse. As events happened, all the mines fired at the first attempt with electric exploders. The saps were stemmed with three barriers, each 10 feet thick, of tightly rammed sand-bags with intervening airtspaces of 10 feet.

During the time the saps were being driven, considerable anxiety was caused by sounds of enemy mining near M3. On April 2nd, they seemed so close that it was feared that they might break into our sap at anytime. A charge of 250 lb. of guncotton was at once laid as a precaution, but not to be fired except in an emergency. Work on this sap was stopped but, luckily, it was in far enough, although the intended powder chambers could not be formed. Two sentries were kept by the miners in this sap from that date until the mines were fired, one of the most nerve trying jobs imaginable. The charge of guncotton was increased to 500 lbs. just before the Hill was blown up. The enemy were again heard very close to this sap on April 16th, but luckily they did not find it. It was subsequently learned from prisoners that they intended to blow up our advance Trench 38 on April 19th, but, as events proved, they were two days too late.

All was now ready, and at 7 p.m., on April 17th, the Hill was blown up, just as the 3rd Battalion was marching out of Ypres to the Polygon Wood Line. The result was completely successful, as is well known, the enemy trenches being completely obliterated and the position being quickly occupied by our troops with very few casualties.

The official account says :—

“ The mines undoubtedly produced a great moral
 “ effect. Debris flew 200/300 feet in the air and up
 “ to 200/300 yards away, but all men had been warned
 “ and only one accident occurred—to a man who,
 “ against orders, watched the effect over the para-
 “ pet. The Infantry were warned not to go down
 “ into the crater for at least half-an-hour after capture,
 “ owing to the danger of poisonous fumes remaining
 “ there. The two craters at M2 were each about 90
 “ feet across and together formed an enormous pit,

“ the inside of the Hill being literally blown out, “ the depth of the craters being about 30 feet. The “ crater formed by M3 was about 30 feet across. “ The success of the mines was unquestionable.”

After the blowing up of the Hill the fury of the second Battle of Ypres burst forth, during which the 3rd Battalion made its greatest sacrifice and rendered its greatest service.

Although not engaged in such definitely offensive mining as before, the men of the 171st Company had a lot of particularly hazardous work to do, especially counter-mining or “ mole-warfare,” as it has been described. Counter-mining was always a most “ windy” business, as can well be imagined, for there was the ever present danger of the enemy having an advanced sap with a charge in it ready to explode, when they thought our sap was near enough. The most trying time in counter-mining was not when one could hear the enemy miners working, but when one could not hear them, for a reason that can easily be understood. It needs the pen of Edgar Allen Poe to conjure up a true description of this kind of warfare.

The 171st Company lost heavily in these counter-mining operations, many of the casualties being Monmouthshire men. At the end of the May they were withdrawn from this section, and about this time the Monmouthshire men were transferred to the Royal Engineers ; prior to this they had only been attached for duty. They afterwards took part in other mining work, including the blowing up of Wytschaete Ridge under General Sir Herbert Plumer, and when not engaged in offensive mining were employed in making deep dug-outs and similiar work. For their gallantry in these mining operations, Cpl. Hoare and L/Cpl. Leonard received the D.C.M.

Mention should here be made of Lt. Lionel Hill, a South African Mining Engineer, who did most excellent work at Hill 60, and who, after Lt. Abbott had been sent to hospital, looked after the Monmouthshire men as well as though he was actually from Monmouthshire himself. He was afterwards promoted to Lt. Colonel and was in charge of the mining operations for one of our Armies.

Although the Hill 60 mines were not on anything like as gigantic a scale as those of Wytschaete, La Boisselle, and other mines in the latter stages of the War, yet at the time they were greatly in advance of anything that had ever been previously attempted, and they paved the way for the greater development of mining warfare.

In these operations speed was the essence of success, and had not the work being carried out as expeditiously as it was, the enemy would have blown our trenches up first.

We can feel proud that the Monmouthshire men engaged in this work did their duty as nobly and well under the surface in the Salient as their comrades did on the battlefield close by, and that they too helped to add lustre to the name of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the Monmouthshire Regiment.*

**During a visit to the Battlefields in the Summer of 1925, the writer visited Hill 60. The wonderful industry of the Belgian farmer had reclaimed nearly all the land, a farmhouse actually standing at the spot from which M1 and M2 were driven. The summit of the Hill still presents a picture of desolation and havoc. The craters, although some vegetation has grown on them, are still plainly to be seen. There are a couple of fine memorials there, one being to that splendid Territorial Battalion, the Queen Victoria Rifles, who fought so gallantly there after the blowing-up of the Hill.*

CHAPTER V.

THE AMALGAMATED MONMOUTHSHIRE
BATTALIONS.*BY
THE EDITORS.

After the heavy casualties of the 2nd Battle of Ypres, the three Monmouthshire Battalions barely mustered the strength of one Battalion, and on May 22nd orders were received to amalgamate. On Whit Sunday, May 23rd, the 3rd Monmouthshires left Winnezele and joined the 1st Monmouthshires that night in bivouacs in the Vlamertinghe Woods. They had not long to wait, as at 2 a.m. on May 24th, the enemy opened a heavy bombardment of the Salient and lines of communication, followed up by a strongly pressed attack.

The 84th Brigade, to which the 3rd Monmouthshires were now attached as well as the 1st Battalion, was moved up in support behind Ypres about 5 a.m., and at mid-day was ordered to proceed through Ypres and counter-attack on either side of the Ypres-Roulers Railway, in the neighbourhood of Hell Fire Corner. Owing to the heavy casualties of the leading battalions from shell fire, whilst moving up through Ypres, the Monmouthshires were ordered to proceed round the southern outskirts of the town, past the Gas Works and over the Comines Canal, which was being heavily shelled. Crossing the Lille Road they reached the embankment of Zillebeke Lake, and eventually occupied trenches to the north of the Lake and in front of the "Moated Grange." At midnight on May 24th, orders were received to counter-attack opposite Hell Fire Corner, but after they had moved into position, these were countermanded.

The remainder of the day, May 25th, was spent in trenches between Gordon House and Hell Fire

*For positions referred to in this Chapter, see Map page 36.

Corner. The enemy very heavily shelled the Menin Road and Roulers Railway. In the midst of it the R.A.M.C. did very fine work bringing in, in broad daylight, the wounded and transferring them to horse drawn ambulances.

This marked the last serious attempt of the enemy to push through in the 2nd Battle of Ypres. About 8 p.m. the Monmouthshires were relieved by a Highland Battalion, and, in moving back through the Railway cutting, they saw how fearfully the head of the 84th Brigade had suffered in the previous day's counter-attack. After a halt at the crossing of the Lille Road over the Roulers Railway, during which parties were told off to gather up equipment, the Monmouthshires moved round the outskirts of Ypres, which was then on fire in many places, to the bivouacs at Vlamertinghe Woods. Here they were joined on May 27th by the 2nd Monmouths from the 4th Division, who had been heavily engaged on the left flank of the Salient since the beginning of May.*

The amalgamation was now completed as "The Monmouthshire Regiment," under the command of Major W. S. Bridge, and was attached to the 84th Brigade. On May 28th the Monmouths moved back to Herzelee, where they were addressed by the Brigadier (General Bols), who stated that the three Battalions would be eventually re-formed. The period from May 29th to June 10th was busily spent in organizing and re-equipping. New Companies were formed

**As the three Battalions were so close together during this critical period, it is of interest to record briefly the movements of the 2nd Monmouthshires during May, 1915.*

May 2—5 In reserve at La Brique.

May 5—9 In the front line by Shell Trap Farm, Wieltje, adjoining the 2nd Northumberland Fusiliers (28th Division).

May 9—15 In reserve at La Brique.

May 15—20 In support at Wieltje.

May 20—24 Resting at Vlamertinghe.

May 24—27 Constructing defence works astride the St. Jean—Wieltje Road.

under Capt. Steel, Capt. Gattie, Capt. E. Edwards, and Lt. D. Evans.

It was at this period that the first real protection against gas was issued, and considerable time was given to instruction in the use of the new gas helmet. A party from the Monmouths took part in the initial tests which, owing to shortage of gas, were carried out inside a motor omnibus. Since the surprise of the first gas attack, various makeshifts had been adopted to protect the troops against a renewal of such an attack. The new gas helmets produced at a moment's notice were remarkably simple and effective under the circumstances, and were only withdrawn about nine months later, when the introduction of other forms of gas rendered more complicated forms of protection necessary.

On June 11th the Monmouthshires—30 officers and 999 other ranks—marched south with the Brigade to Reninghelst and bivouacked for the night in a wood on the Rozenhilbeek Brook. That night a party of officers under Lt. Col. Bridge reconnoitred the front line, which lay between the Bois Carré and the Bois Quarante and opposite to Wytschaete.

On the night of June 12th the Monmouthshires took over this line from the 7th K.R.R., 14th Division. "Strong Points" were organized in the rear of the front line in the Bois Carré, a wood which His Majesty King George visited under rather exciting conditions, shortly after the blowing up of the Wytschaete Ridge by General Plumer in June, 1917. Behind the Bois Carré, in the Brasserie, on the main Kemmel Road, was a Dressing Station, which suffered severely from shell fire. Battalion H.Q. were at Gordon Farm, adjoining Dickebusch Lake.

On the whole, this part of the line was a pleasant change, but was unfortunately not free from casualties, and before the Monmouthshires were relieved

on June 19th they lost 7 killed and 32 wounded, mostly during a severe shelling of B Company's sector on June 17th. The Monmouths were relieved by the 1st Welch and Cheshires, and moved back to the G.H.Q. line in the Ridge Wood, in those days, a delightful spot, but in 1918 the scene of desperate fighting. It marked the extreme point to which the Germans advanced in this part of the line. The Monmouthshires had two more tours in the front line before leaving this area, from June 26th—July 3rd and July 11th—14th. Casualties during this period were fortunately lighter—2 killed and 8 wounded.

On June 29th Lt. Whitehead was accidentally wounded by the premature explosion of a rifle bomb, which was being fired against the enemy trenches. These early rifle bombs caused many casualties, owing to the spring controlling the firing pin being too light.

At this point it is as well to trace the development of the use of bombs. When the Monmouthshires first came out, the initial training was undertaken by the R.E. with home made bombs consisting of empty jam tins, filled with a miscellaneous assortment of scrap and gun-cotton, with a detonator and a short length of fuse. Such a bomb was a very crude affair and uncertain in its action.

On joining the 28th Division, parties from the Battalion received the first real instruction in the use of regular bombs from Lt. Davies of the 1st Welch, who was killed shortly after. These bombs were mounted on a stick with flannel streamers to ensure steady direction and impact on the nose of the bomb, which contained the detonator. Bombing was then in its infancy, trenches as a rule were too far apart to render their use effective, and raids and patrols between the lines had not been developed. Probably the most exciting period of a Bombing Officer's

experience was when the issue was made of boxes of "assorted" bombs without instructions in their use. As a rule the Bombing Officer retired discreetly to make his own experiments and so avoid the annihilation of his squad ! Fortunately, these "assorted" bombs were quickly followed by the very efficient Mills Bomb, which held the field for the rest of the war.

On July 5th the first steps were taken to re-form the three Battalions at a meeting of the senior officers with General Bols. This led to the 2nd Monmouthshires being detached from the amalgamated Battalion on July 24th, and subsequently on August 11th to the final partition between the 1st and 3rd Monmouthshires. It is interesting to note the strength of the three Units forming the amalgamated Battalion on July 24th, when they were still far below strength :

1st Battalion	..	7 officers,	193 other ranks	
2nd	„	.. 12	„ 476	„
3rd	„	.. 8	„ 273	„

This amalgamation of the three Battalions under stress of war had the happiest results, and this service together as one Unit immensely strengthened the cordial relations between the three Battalions.

On July 9th the Battalion held a very successful Sports meeting. On July 14th, the Brigade moved south to Kemmel, and the front line trenches were reconnoitred on July 16th. On July 19th the Monmouthshires relieved the 1st Welch in the line, who, in turn, relieved on July 22nd, so as to effect the detachment of the 2nd Monmouths, who left on July 24th to join the 12th Brigade. On July 28th the Monmouths relieved the 1st and 6th Welch. On July 29th our guns heavily shelled Wytschaete, and the enemy retaliated on Kemmel without serious damage.

On August 1st the Monmouthshires successfully counter-mined an enemy mine under the line held

by the Northumberland Fusiliers with effective results. At this period, owing to reduced strength, the line was very thinly held, and every available officer and man was on duty almost continuously during the nights. On August 2nd, Capt. Walbeoffe-Wilson, who had only joined the Battalion on July 26th, was killed. That night the Battalion was relieved, and, after spending four days in Kemmel Shelters, moved back to Locre. After the detachment of the 1st Monmouthshires on August 11th, the 3rd Monmouthshires were re-attached to the 83rd Brigade, and re-organised into four Companies under Lt. J. M. Jones, Capt. H. G. Tyler, Lt. L. D. Whitehead, and Lt. H. A. Hodges. On August 21st a party of officers reconnoitred the front line opposite Kemmel, and the Battalion relieved the 5th King's Own on August 22nd. On August 28th the 3rd Monmouthshires were relieved by the 5th King's Own.

Orders were received on September 2nd for the 3rd Monmouthshires to join the 49th (West Riding) Division. General Bulfin in his farewell address spoke as follows :—

“ I wish to say I am exceedingly sorry to lose you
 “ from the Division and would wish to thank you
 “ individually, one and all, for the help you have always
 “ given me whilst in the Division. At the beginning you
 “ had a very rough and unhappy time of it, but you
 “ came through it splendidly and have done excellent
 “ work. Your Colonel and all of you will look back
 “ one day with pride on the fine reputation which the
 “ Regiment has made for itself during the time it has
 “ served with the 28th Division. I wish you all the
 “ best of luck and a safe return to England at the end
 “ of the war, and I feel sure you will continue to make
 “ the history which you have begun for your Regiment.”

CHAPTER VI.

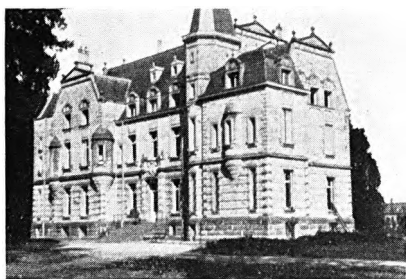
YSER CANAL. SEPT. 5TH—DEC. 29TH, 1915.

BY

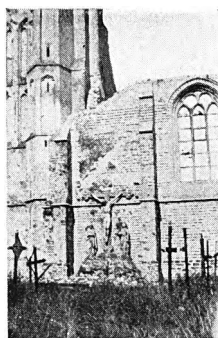
THE EDITORS.

It had long been evident that the engineering resources of infantry divisions were inadequate for the new conditions of trench warfare. Entrenching Battalions had been formed from men unfit for service in the line, but these, however valuable for work in back areas or on roads and reserve lines, were not available to help divisions actually in the line. Pioneer Battalions were now being allotted to every division. Their ranks were filled with fit men, always available in emergency to take their place in the line, and they were organised and equipped as fighting units, but they also specialised on trench engineering and had special equipment for this purpose. Thus they were able to relieve the R.E. of much of the less technical engineering work, and to lighten the endless labour of the infantry in the line. It was as a Pioneer Battalion that the 3rd Monmouthshires went to the 49th Division. They took with them a great reputation and proved themselves capable of a great variety of engineering work.

On September 3rd, the 3rd Monmouthshires left Locre, marching past Major-General Bulfin; that night and the following day they bivouacked in Coponolle Woods. On September 5th the Battalion moved into Elverdinghe, a village, which though badly knocked about, still contained a sprinkling of inhabitants including the parish Priest. The Battalion H.Q. were in the big Chateau, a fine modern building of grey granite, which curiously escaped serious damage from shelling, but was accidently destroyed by fire in 1918. The Companies were distributed in shelters and dug-outs in the Chateau grounds. A feature of the place was the splendid oaks of about



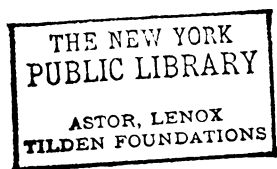
ELVERDINGHE CHATEAU.



ELVERDINGHE CHURCH.



THE YSER CANAL. Y7 BRIDGE.



80 years growth, most of which on the West side are still standing although showing the unmistakable scars of war. On the East side, especially between the Church and the Chateau, practically every tree is destroyed.

The West Riding (49th) Division was on the extreme left of the British line on the northern face of the Ypres Salient, adjoining the French. The area held by the Division was a particularly difficult one to deal with. It was approximately an equilateral triangle, 2,500 yards in each direction with the Yser Canal forming one side, the front line converging on the Canal on the north the second side, and the Coney Street and Gowthorpe communication trenches the base on the south.

The first work undertaken by the Battalion was the construction of Rotherham Road, a communication trench from near Dawson's Corner to the Yser Canal, passing Mordacq Farm and Cheapside, crossing the Thorout Railway and Dixmude Road near Waalkranz Farm, and finishing opposite Bridge 7Z.

During September 18th, a party of officers reconnoitred the area occupied by the 49th Division on the Yser Canal, in the course of which they were greeted with a sharp burst of shelling, whilst proceeding down the road from Brielen to Essex Farm.

On September 19th work was commenced on the systematic drainage of the front and reserve lines of trenches. There was probably no sector in the whole front more difficult to deal with in this respect, as the land was little above sea level, originally a bog, and had been reclaimed by an intricate system of drainage, which had been entirely destroyed by the cutting of innumerable trenches and shell fire. Unfortunately the lowest ground was the point, where the front line converged on the Yser Canal, and it

was impossible, owing to the proximity of the German line, to keep open any watercourses at this point. Owing, however, to the blowing up of the Canal Locks to the north, the level of the Canal was considerably lowered, and it was found possible to form an outlet into the Canal, near South Zwaanhoff Farm. From this point a main watercourse, as shown in blue on the map, was opened up to Algerian Cottage on Gowthorpe Road, with branches on the front line side to Turco Farm, Lancashire Farm, Fusilier Farm, Glimpse Cottage, and Prowse Junction, and on the reserve line side to La Belle Alliance, Burnt Farm and Highland Farm. The northern corner of the area was so waterlogged that no continuous line could be held, and after many attempts, only partially successful, to get rid of the water, it was found necessary to reconstruct the Wellgate communication trench into a reserve line.

The "Tree," an old pollard willow, a well-known landmark in this morass near "Three Crosses Drain," still stands as a grim reminder of the past in Colne Valley Cemetery.

On September 21st, B and D Companies moved into Dumbarton dug-outs in the western bank of the Yser Canal opposite Colenso Farm, and A and C Companies remained at Elverdinghe. These detachments relieved each other every six days, the forward Companies, under the command of the senior Company Commander, working by night under the most arduous and dangerous conditions, as the whole area was swept by machine-gun fire from the German positions on higher ground and subject to heavy shell fire. Early on September 29th Dumbarton dug-outs were heavily shelled, the Company H.Q. were blown in and the Company Kitchen knocked out with one killed and one wounded. There was little spare time, as owing to the nature of the ground, the

dug-outs required constant maintainance during the daytime. The resting Companies found parties to work with the R.E. in daylight on less exposed work. On October 5th the forward Companies were shifted to dug-outs further south between Bridges 6A and 6B. On October 24th Elverdinghe was heavily shelled towards midnight. On October 27th, Lt. Col. Bridge and 20 other ranks proceeded to Abeele for the Corps Inspection by H.M. The King.

A considerable amount of useful work was put in on the main communication trenches—Barnsley Road, Colne Valley, Skipton, Huddersfield, Halifax, Strensall Roads and Coney Street. Communication between the two sides of the Canal was maintained by 15 temporary footbridges and one road bridge carried on two sunken barges at Essex Farm. Most of these bridges were very unhealthy, as they were open to enfilading machine-gun and shell fire from the German positions opposite Boesinghe and on Pilckem Ridge.

The work was particularly discouraging as, owing to the shifting nature of the boggy ground, in which men sank up to their waists, the work of weeks would disappear in a night. All through these trying times the Battalion suffered continuous casualties, and many now lie in Bard Cottage Cemetery. On November 2nd Lt. Radcliffe was very severely wounded on the Pilckem Road near Glimpse Cottage. On November 7th, Elverdinghe was heavily shelled at 11 a.m. and again at 2.30 p.m. It speaks highly for the morale of the Battalion that, in spite of weeks in wet and muddy clothing, bitter cold, arduous work and absence of hot food, very few fell out for sickness. During this period several officers and N.C.O.'s were detached on important R.E. work.

On November 21st we were visited by a party of Welsh Miners' Leaders, including the late Mr.

Alfred Onions, M.P. On November 24th C.S.M. H. Lewis was killed, a fine soldier, and a great loss to B Company.

At the latter part of November and early December, the shelling of the whole forward area occupied by the Division was frequent and severe, but it was encouraging to hear the spirited response of our guns, especially what we called the "Sunshine" Battery immediately in our rear, and the isolated forward guns emplaced in the eastern bank of the canal. During December, warnings were issued of a possible gas attack, and the necessary precautions were taken by the officers of the forward detachments.

On December 19th at about 5.30 a.m., when B and D, the forward Companies, were resting in their dug-outs after a long night's work, came the expected alarm of gas. These Companies under Capt. H. Tyler moved at once into the reserve trenches on the western bank of the Canal, and H.Q. and the other companies from Elverdinghe came up in support by 7 a.m., while the machine-gun section took up position in case of a break through. It was fortunate that A and C Companies moved up when they did, as the enemy commenced shelling the Chateau grounds with 17 inch shells just as they marched through the gates, the first shell actually falling on the spot where the two Companies were paraded a few minutes beforehand. As it was, eight of these shells burst in the grounds, causing only one casualty, as practically all troops had moved up to the front line. The infantry had not been surprised and opened a rapid fire, while the British guns shelled the enemy's trenches heavily, so no infantry attack followed the gas waves. Heavy shelling continued until 3 a.m. on the 20th. The casualties of the Division amounted to about 350, of which 40 were in the 3rd Monmouths. It was here that L./Cpl. Dixon, with another man, won the D.C.M.

for volunteering to warn two men on outlying work, one of whom they found killed and the other badly gassed. Under gas and heavy shell fire they brought the gassed man in, through wrecked trenches and across a fireswept bridge over the Yser Canal. Pte. Moore a stretcher bearer received the D.C.M. for bringing in casualties and again distinguished himself on December 29th.

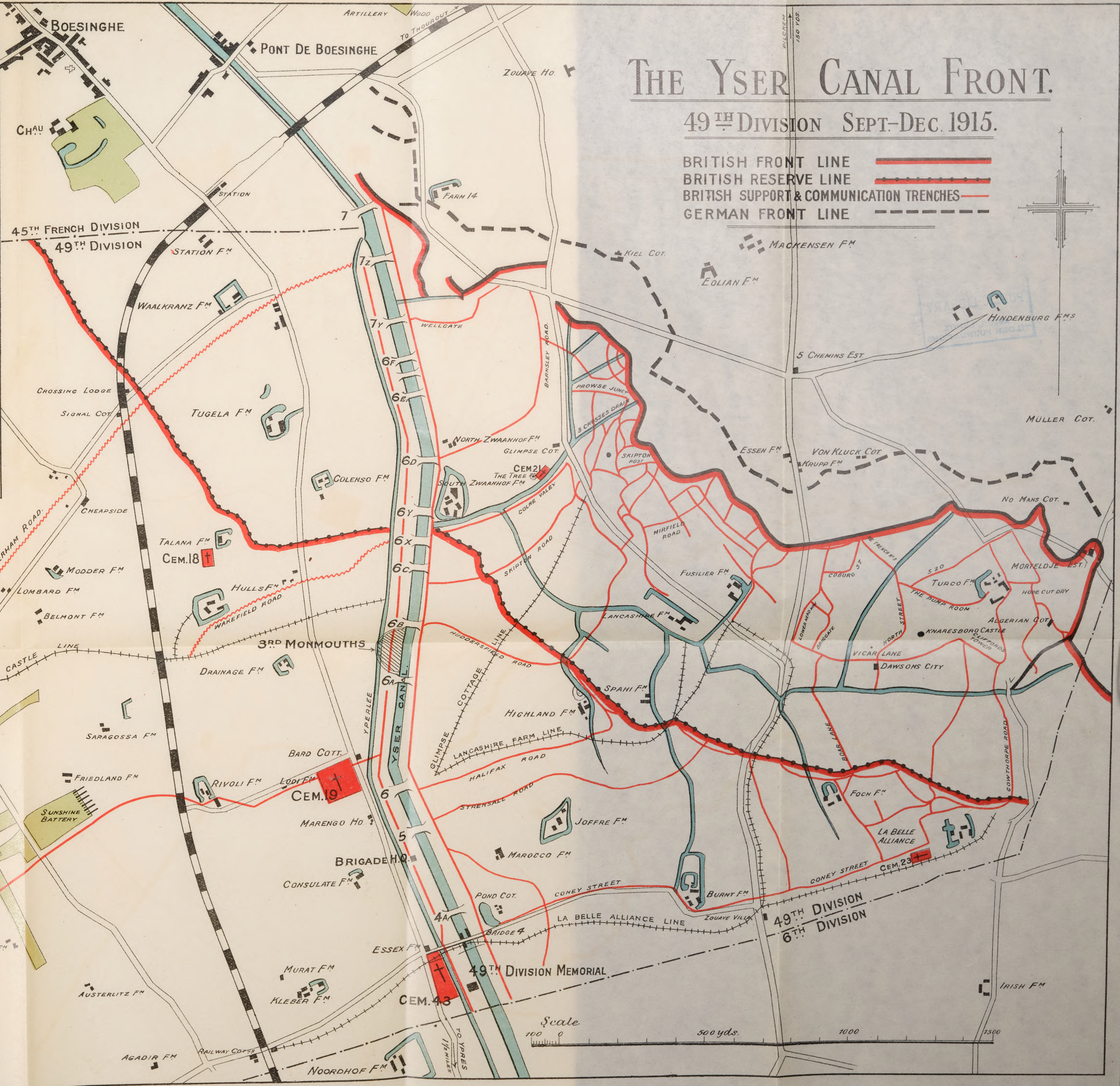
The messages of the Corps and of the 2nd Army Commander confirm Ian Hay's description of this action as "The push that failed." A and C Companies returned to Elverdinghe on December 20th, and after enjoying their Christmas dinner on the 21st, returned cheerfully to relieve B and D by 11 p.m.

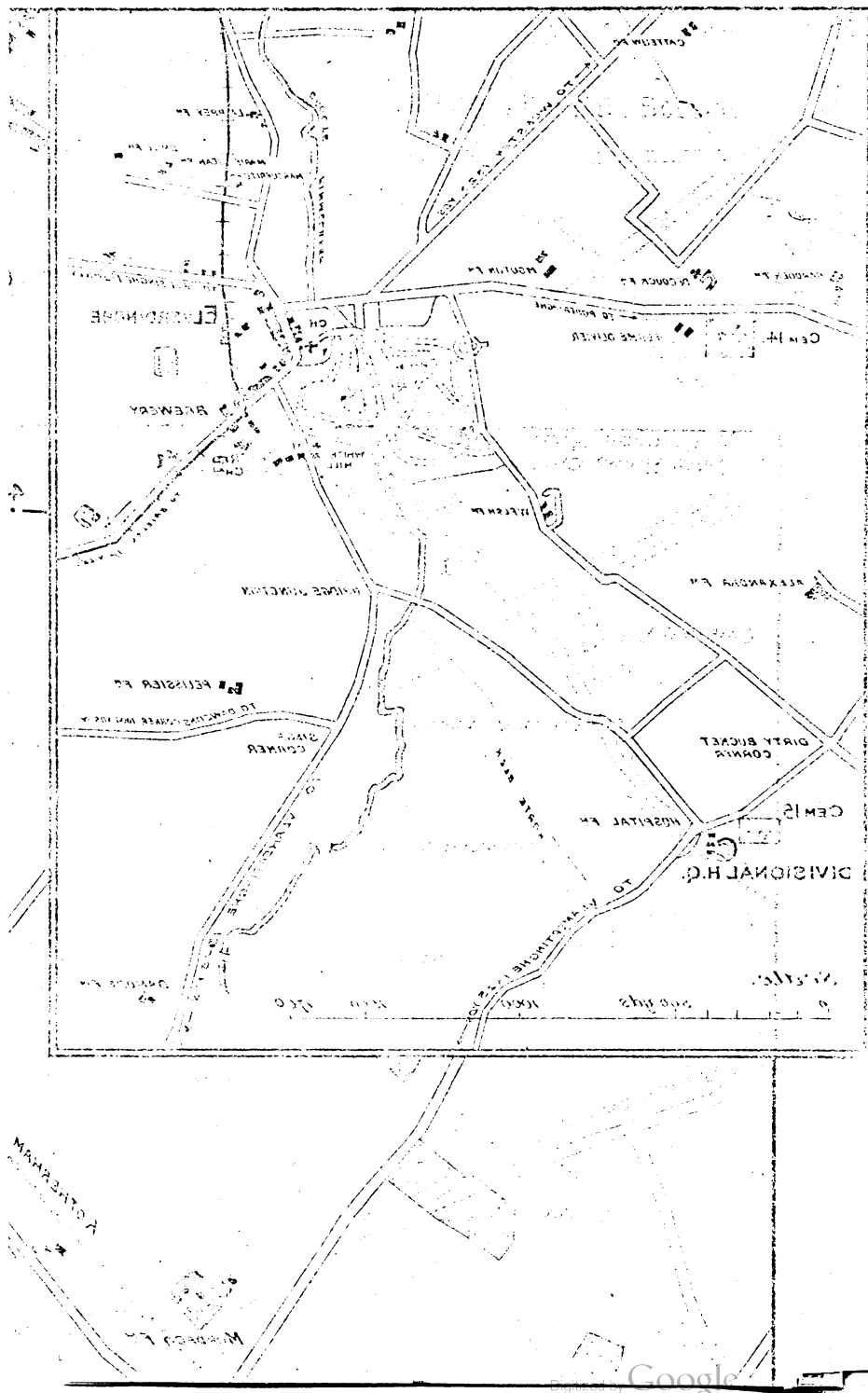
On December 27th the Battalion re-assembled at Elverdinghe, ready to be withdrawn with the Division for a well earned rest.

As already recorded A and C Companies had been most fortunate early on the morning of December 19th, to avoid the heavy bombardment of their lines, which followed immediately after they had moved off to reinforce the Yser Canal front. This good fortune was entirely reversed on December 29th, and the Battalion saw its second greatest tragedy. Orders had been issued to parade ready for moving off at 2.30 p.m. Evidently the enemy were aware from the amount of traffic on the roads that a Divisional relief was taking place. At 2.10 p.m. a heavy "woolly bear" burst nearly over the Chateau, evidently a ranging shot. The Companies were then beginning to fall in and everyone was in a particularly cheery mood at the prospect of six weeks rest. A few minutes later, an ominous sound was heard, like an oncoming railway train, and in about eight seconds a 17 inch shell, fired from a naval gun in the Forest of Houthulst, burst right in between B and C

Companies; in about five minutes a second shell burst near the same spot. The third shell completely demolished the Church Army Hut which had only been completed three days earlier, and a fourth fell near the "Pagoda." About three of these huge shells fell in the village, one of which nearly caught some of our machine-gunners, who were handing over a strong point near the Church. In this cruel misfortune we lost not only many of the N.C.O.'s and men who had come out with the Battalion, but also the greater part of a small draft, which had arrived a few days earlier and had not even been up to the line. Thirty-nine N.C.O.'s and men were killed and are buried in the adjoining Cemetery of Ferme Olivier, and thirty were wounded. It was a ghastly send-off from the Salient, which we were not to see again as a Battalion.

It was always felt this disaster was the work of a spy, and as such it is referred to by Capt. Tuohy in his book "The Secret Service." An aeroplane bearing the Allied colours flew around the Chateau ground just clear of the trees; it is understood this aeroplane was never identified, and there is reason to suppose it was a hostile machine in false colours, assisting in directing fire and reporting results.







BARD COTTAGE CEMETERY.



FERME OLIVIER CEMETERY, ELVERDINGHE.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

CHAPTER VII.

THE SOMME. FEBRUARY 4TH—AUGUST 8TH, 1916.

BY

THE EDITORS AND CAPT. A. G. NEWMAN.

The 49th Division was now withdrawn to rest before proceeding to the Somme, and the Battalion, after leaving Elverdinghe, marched by stages to Rietveld, a little hamlet on the Cassel-Wormhoudt Road, where the Companies were billeted in farms within easy walking distance of each other.

Four pleasant weeks were spent in this area ; the training was not strenuous, only sufficient being done to keep all ranks fit, and the afternoons were spent in games. A Regimental Boxing Contest revealed a great deal of unexpected talent, and everyone will remember the cheers which greeted the success of " Tom Jones' draft," a member of the Reserve Battalion who, having found home-soldiering tedious, deserted to France in order to see the real thing!

On February 3rd the Battalion entrained at Esquelbecq for the south, and next day detrained at Longueau near Amiens. It was the first time for months for many to see a large town, and such ordinary things as an electric tram and a lighted shop had an attraction they had never presented before.

There was no delay, however, and the Battalion marched at once to Ailly-sur-Somme, from which point they bussed to Saisseval, a small village about 14 kilometres to the west of Amiens. After a few days spent in further training, the Battalion moved on February 13th to the line just north of Albert, with the Battalion Headquarters at Bouzincourt.

Work was at once begun in preparation for the offensive, which by this time all ranks knew was to take place in the Somme area and so relieve the German pressure at Verdun. A Company began work on repairing roads, with a detachment cutting corduroy timber at the village of Contay, some nine kilometres to the west of Bouzincourt.

B Company took over the construction of a trench railway through Aveluy Wood, and was billeted at Martinsart, so as to be nearer the work. This was a new experience; so far, the Battalion's work as Pioneers had been confined to pick and shovel work, but B Company was soon able to show that a collier is a handy man with many things besides a shovel, and the light railway they constructed was destined to be of great service to the troops in the Thiepval area, during the ensuing July and August.

C and D Companies carried on the construction of Northumberland Avenue, a road started by a Pioneer Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, running from Bouzincourt through the Martinsart Woods to the Halte on the Acheux-Albert light railway.

While engaged on this work the Battalion very soon realised what different ground they had to deal with. In the Ypres area the soil was a treacherous loam, which at the first sign of moisture began to cave in and soon became a morass, but in the new area chalk was everywhere, and, though it meant hard work, it was a pleasant change to find that a trench could be made with perpendicular sides without revetment.

The 49th Division was relieved on March 5th and moved back for special training for the offensive, leaving the 3rd Monmouths to carry on pioneer work in the forward area.

This relief involved the splitting up of the Battalion among the Divisions, which composed the Xth Corps. The Battalion H.Q. with D Company moved to Forceville, while A Company went to Senlis and was employed on road-repairing work under the 32nd Division. C Company went to the 48th (South Midland Territorial) Division further north at Bus-les-Artois, while B Company, after moving to Forceville for one night, returned to Martin-sart to continue their work on the trench railway through Aveluy Wood, across the Ancre Marshes to Thiepval Wood, under the 36th (Ulster) Division. Whilst attached to this Division, B Company took part in a Boxing Tournament, and out of 4 entries secured 3 events.

D Company, like A Company, was at first employed on road repairs, but subsequently started the construction of an ammunition dump, with corduroy timber approaches, at Hedauville. The first Company to move again was C Company, who returned to Forceville from Bus-les-Artois on March 31st. A communication was received from the 49th Divisional Commander conveying the appreciation of the C.R.E. 48th Division upon the good work, done by this Company on the roads in his Divisional area.

During April the 49th Division held a Horse Show at Hedauville in which the Battalion took part. This village was almost equi-distant from all Companies, and a few representatives of all ranks were able to be present and watch the jumping.

The Battalion's work however was not entirely out of the danger zone, for on April 17th, Private Stevens, B Company, received a gallantry card for conspicuous gallantry under shell fire at Thiepval Wood, and on April 27th Captain Hodges (D Company) distinguished himself in preventing a serious explosion in an outbreak of fire in an ammunition

dump at Forceville, and received the thanks of the Divisional Commander. Only the previous day an ammunition dump blew up at Acheux and caused several casualties.*

D Company was the next to move, on May 2nd. Profiting by their experience in constructing the Ammunition Dump at Hedauville, half the Company was sent back to Warloy, near Contay, to construct a similar dump there, and on May 10th B Company, who had completed their trench railway, was moved back from Martinsart to Forceville, where they worked on the construction of a corduroy road running from Forceville to Englebelmer, afterwards named Monmouth Road.

During May, A Company provided a party of 20 miners for the construction of sunken observation posts in the reserve trenches round Mesnil Village, overlooking the Grandcourt Valley. Great difficulty was experienced in disposing of the chalk excavated, as the German aeroplane observation was very keen. This was scarcely surprising; no one moving in the back area could ignore the rapid assembling of troops everywhere, and horselines and gun parks seemed to be gradually occupying all available space.

On May 19th the remainder of D Company moved to Warloy, and on May 31st sent a detachment to Varennes to begin yet another Ammunition Dump. In June the same Company sent detachments to Martinsart and Englebelmer, where they did excellent work in the construction of observation posts on

**At this point it should be recorded that this officer lost his life in the 1918 retreat on the Amiens front, near Ham, whilst serving with the 11th South Lancashires. He was a magnificent type of man, a fine athlete, captain of the Oxford Rugby XV. and an English International. His was a strong character, which exercised the highest influence both amongst officers and men, by whom he was universally loved. His death was one of the tragedies of the War, as we can ill spare men of his sterling qualities.*

Hawthorn Ridge, overlooking Beaumont Hamel down the famous Y ravine.*

On June 20th Monmouth Road was completed ; far more than the regulation hours being put in during the concluding stages. In fact, all Companies were at this time working at high pressure, and no one could ignore the feeling of tension for the opening day of the Somme battle, which was now known to be fixed for July 1st.

On June 24th the Battalion assembled at Forceville, and on June 25th left the forward areas and marched to Rubempré, a village some 15 kilometres to the west of Forceville. Many imagined that this indicated that the Battalion was to take no part in the attack. The idea of a long drawn out struggle hardly entered into anyone's calculations.

After two days of exceptionally good weather spent in this quiet and extremely pretty village, orders to rejoin the 49th Division were received, and all units moved up gradually, the Battalion was at Contay on June 27th, at Harponville on June 28th, and reached Bouzincourt at 2 a.m. on July 1st. The Company Commanders at this date were Captain Merton Jones, A Company, Captain H. G. Tyler, B Company, Captain W. P. Abbott, C Company, Captain H. A. Hodges, D Company.

While at Harponville the Colonel received the following message from the C.R.E., 49th Division :

“ The Divisional Commander directs me to inform “ you that he is very pleased with all that he has “ heard and seen of the work carried out by the

**A considerable area in this sector has been acquired by the Newfoundland Government and is now laid out as a park, in which the original British and German front line trenches are preserved in most interesting detail. The park contains the Newfoundland Memorial—a bronze Caribou surmounting a craggy eminence—a striking memorial to the 51st (Highland T.F.) Division, and also one to the famous 29th Division, to which not only the Newfoundland Regiment was attached, but also the 2nd Monmouthshires.*

“ Battalion under your command during the past four months. He has no hesitation in saying that the success of the coming operations, that he confidently anticipates, will be due in no small measure to the skill, devotion and unsparing labour of the Pioneer Battalion of the 49th Division.”

An intense bombardment had been going on for the last two days and at 5 a.m. on July 1st the attack was opened. An excellent view was obtained from the high ground near Bouzincourt Village, and many assembled there during the morning to watch the operations and speculate upon results. At first good news came to us of the advance on our front of the Ulster men (36th Division), but later in the day it became evident that the attack on Beaumont-Hamel and Thiepval had not succeeded, and that the Battalions in our own Division were heavily involved in fighting for the German front lines, instead of leap-frogging through to Grandcourt.

At dusk the Battalion moved up to the bottom of Thiepval Wood expecting to work consolidating the ground captured by the Ulster men. The officer in charge, on reporting to a Brigadier in Thiepval Wood, was told that the proposed work could not be carried out; but in accord with Irish temperament was offered a fight instead, and the Monmouths, borrowing Lewis guns and bombs went into the assembly trenches. The attack, however, was subsequently cancelled, and at dawn the Battalion returned to Bouzincourt.

The next night, July 2nd, the Battalion was again moved up to Thiepval Wood, but no work could be done. On the night of July 3rd, however, the Battalion was able to dig two trenches between the old British front line in Thiepval Wood and a section of the captured German trenches in front of the Schwaben Redoubt, B and D Co.'s digging the left

trench nearer the Ancre, and A and C Co.'s the right trench. The line was lightly held and the Companies were unprotected, except by their own covering parties.

The ground had been the scene of very serious fighting for the past two days and the Battalion stretcher-bearers during the night helped many men, who were badly in need of assistance, to the forward Dressing Stations. In spite of the heavy shelling and bombing raids, the new communication trenches were sufficiently completed by the morning for use, and the following night a party of the Monmouths finally finished off the work.

For these two nights' work the Battalion received the following message from the Staff of the 49th Division :

" The work of digging communication trenches " from the British front line to the captured German " positions was of great importance. The Divisional " Commander is pleased with the rapidity with which " it was done by the 3rd Monmouthshire Regiment."

The position of these trenches is defined by the very impressive Ulster Memorial Tower, which now stands between the two lines on the north of the Thiepval-Pozières Road.

On July 5th, B Company moved to Lancashire Dump in Aveluy Wood, and began working on the business end of the trench railway they had built earlier in the summer, but the other Companies continued to operate from Bouzincourt, supplying parties for burying and consolidating work. Where no advance had been made, our trenches required as much repairing as the captured German trenches.

On July 6th, A Company suffered severely while digging a communication trench from our front line to the enemy's front line, which had been partially captured by the 49th Division. The orders were to hold the communication trench to the north

in case of attack, until 2 a.m. next morning and then withdraw. The casualties in this affair were 2nd Lt. Straker (died of wounds) and 14 other ranks killed and wounded.

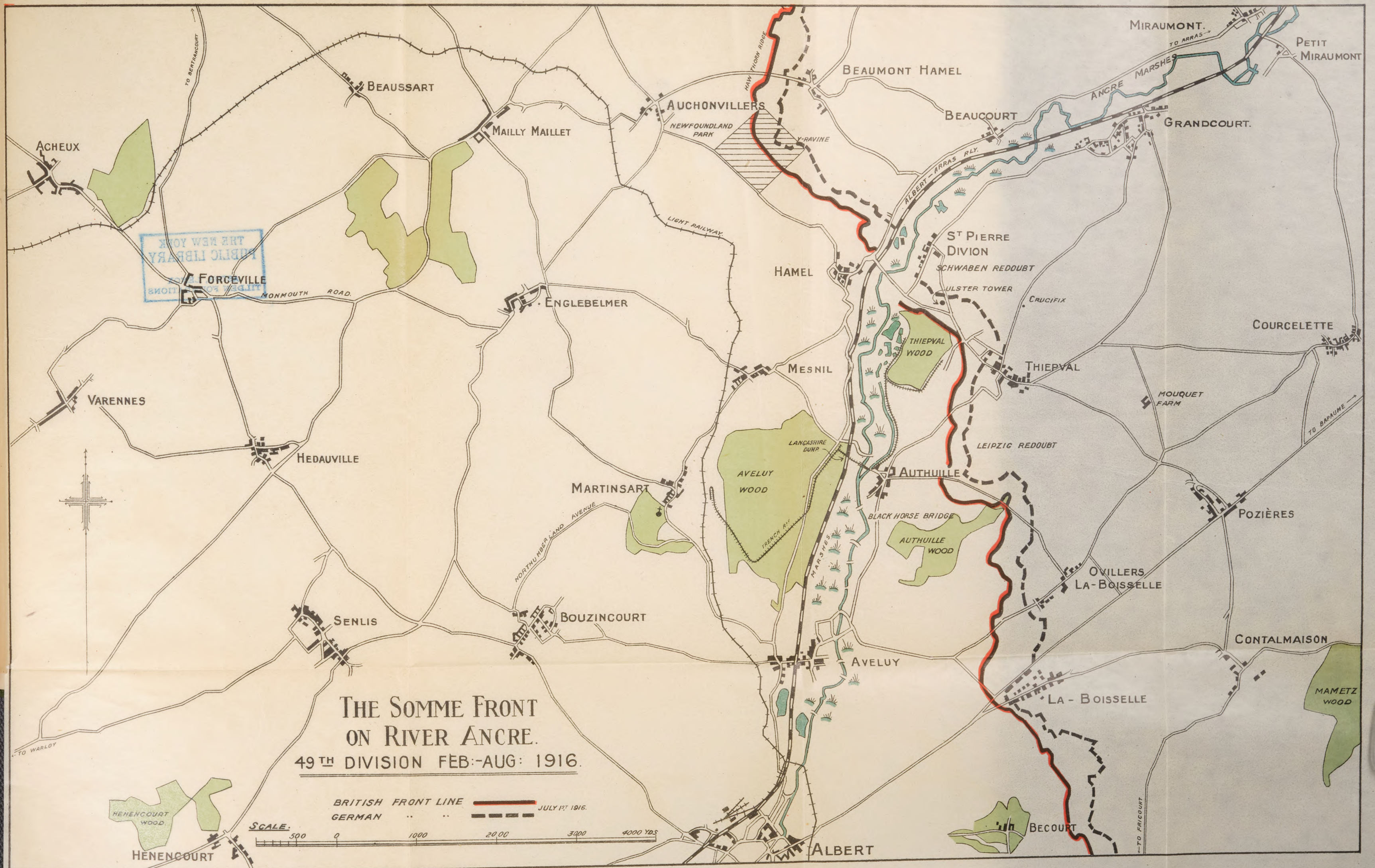
On July 9th, parties from A and D Companies, while acting as burial parties in the Leipsic Salient—an area occupied by the 49th Division—were able to help in resisting a determined bombing attack by the enemy, and four of the party were subsequently presented with gallantry cards on the recommendation of the officer commanding the West Yorks holding the line.

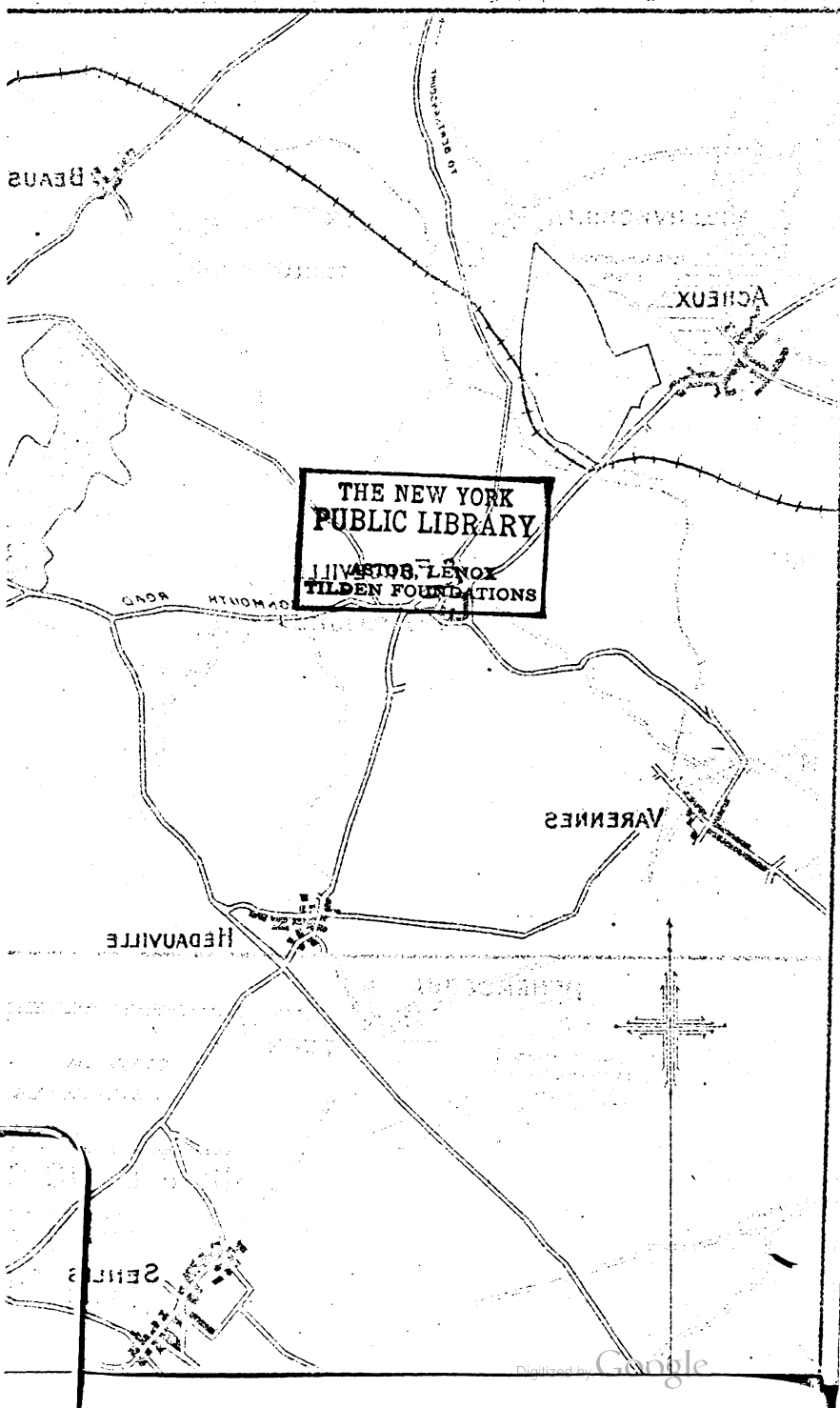
On July 10th, A, C and D companies moved to bivouacs in Martinsart Wood, while the Battalion H.Q. moved to Hedauville. This move was very welcome; for Bouzincourt seemed a very long way from the line after a long night's work, and the shorter march to and from the line, which Martinsart Wood provided, added not a little to the energy which all ranks were able to put into their work.

In spite of small drafts, the Battalion numbers continued to dwindle. On July 16th, B Company suffered very severely at Lancashire Dump, losing 19 killed and wounded by shell fire.

During the latter part of July, A, C and D Companies worked under the Brigades of the 49th Division—repairing and consolidating captured trenches, acting as carrying parties and making gun-tracks over the newly occupied ground near La Boisselle and Owillers. The work was frequently a long distance from Martinsart Wood, where A, C and D Companies were bivouacked, and all ranks were glad of the two days' rest at Hedauville, which each Company was given in turn during this period.

On August 5th, after more than a month under battle conditions, the Battalion received, instead





of drafts to replace their heavy casualties, the disheartening news that it was impossible to reinforce the three active service Battalions of the Regiment, and in consequence the 3rd Battalion, the Junior Battalion, would be broken up to provide drafts for the other Battalions. The Battalion moved back to Forceville on August 8th, where Major-General Perceval, G.O.C., 49th Division, made them a farewell speech.

The following day the Monmouths entrained at Acheux for Hesdin, and went into billets at Capelle. On August 14th, 200 N.C.O.'s and men left for the 2nd Monmouthshires and on August 24th, 252 N.C.O.'s and men for the 9th Entrenching Battalion.* Officers were scattered amongst many different units, but the majority found their way either to the 1st or 2nd Monmouths. Fifty N.C.O.'s and men selected for length of service and wounds went to the Base Dépôt, Rouen, to form a nucleus in the event of the Battalion being once more re-formed.

Thus ended the War Services of the 3rd Monmouthshires as a Battalion, but not as individuals, as is shown by the many honours subsequently won. The Battalion had never been made up to strength since the 2nd Battle of Ypres, and its companies had at times fallen to 50 rifles. Drafts had been used up quicker than they came in, but no officer or man lost heart, and all took with them to the units to which they were transferred, the spirit which made the reputation of the old Battalion.

**200 other ranks were transferred on September 20th, from the 9th Entrenching Battalion to the 9th Welch Regiment, and the remainder to the 9th Royal Welch Fusiliers.*

WAR DIARY.

1914.

- Aug. 4. Order to mobilise received at 6.10 p.m.
 5. Battalion assembled at Abergavenny and proceeded in two trains to Pembroke Dock.
 9. Relieved by 3rd S.W.B. and proceeded to Oswestry.
 14. Inspected by Maj. General J. Lindley, G.O.C. Welsh Division.
 18. Brigade notified that 817 had volunteered for service abroad.
 30. Proceeded to Northampton.
- Sept. 1. One officer and a draft of 84 men arrived from Abergavenny.
 3. Brigade Inspection by General Sir Bruce Hamilton, G.O.C. Central Force.
 9. Lt. Col. P. B. Ford, T.D., left for Abergavenny, to take command of Reserve Battalion.
 16. Lt. Col. H. W. Worsley Gough, late Connaught Rangers, arrived and took over command.
 First inoculation of Battalion against typhoid.
 21. Major E. H. Fawckner proceeded to Depot.
 23. Major W. S. Bridge, late D.L.I., reported as 2nd in command, vice Major E. H. Fawckner.
- Oct. 13. Captain K. F. D. Gattie appointed acting Adjutant, vice Capt. H. O. Smithers, Bedford Regiment, granted sick leave.
 17. 93 Recruits proceeded to Tamworth for Course of Musketry.

- Oct. 30. 3 officers and a draft of 78 men reported from the Reserve Battalion.
31. Battalion proceeded with Brigade to Ipswich by rail and marched to Tuddenham.
- Nov. 1. 2nd Monmouthshires ordered overseas. Battalion marched to Grundisburgh.
2. Work commenced on East Coast Defensive System.
9. Orders to sharpen bayonets ; work done by local smith at Grundisburgh.
11. Orders received to proceed to India on the 23rd.
13. Battalion returned to Northampton.
16. Precautionary instructions for emergency move.
18. Indian equipment received.
19. Memorial Service to the late F.M. Earl Roberts.
21. Orders for India cancelled.
30. Proceeded by rail to Woodbridge and marched to Grundisburgh.
- Dec. 1. Resumed work on defences.
13. Took over whole sector of defences from Woodbridge to Swilland.
25. Xmas Day. Troops ordered to stand to arms.
- 1915.
- Jan. 10. Proceeded by rail to Cambridge.
12. Four Company organisation.
17. Battalion selected with others for Overseas service.
20. Division inspected by G.O.C. Central Forces.
30. Draft of 120 from Reserve Battalion.
- Feb. 10. Definite orders for proceeding overseas.
11. Inspection by H.M. The King on Parker's Piece.

- Feb. 13. Battalion proceeded by rail to Southampton, and embarked on transports.
14. Transports sailed at 8.15 p.m. and reached
15. Le Havre at 9 a.m., and camped for the night at Ste Adresse.
16. Left Le Havre by rail at 8 p.m.
17. Arrived at Bavinchove Station at 5 p.m., marched to Cassel and billeted there.
18. Marched to Steenwoorde.
19. Party for mining proceeded to Ypres under Lt. G. W. Lancaster.
23. Inspection by Maj. General Sir Herbert Plumer.
24. Inspection by General Sir H. Smith-Dorrien.
27. First instruction by R.E. officer in the making and use of bombs.
28. Marched to Caestre, thence by bus to Bailleul, and marched to billets at St. Jans Cappel.
- March 1. Marched to billets at Ravelsberg. The C.O., with 8 officers and 16 N.C.O.'s, proceeded to the trenches for 24 hours' instruction.
3. Major Bridge and 7 other officers to the trenches for instruction.
4. A and B Companies to the trenches for twenty-four hours' instruction.
5. C Company to trenches for twenty-four hours' instruction.
6. D Company to trenches for twenty-four hours' instruction.
- Battalion posted to the 83rd Brigade, 28th Division.
12. Battalion took over trenches 10a and 10b, front line and supports. B.H.Q. at St. Quentin Cabaret, Wulverghem.
17. Relieved by 5th K.O. Royal Lancasters, and proceeded to huts near Dranoutre.

- March** 21. Marched to old billets at Ravelsberg.
 23. Relieved 5th King's Own in trenches.
 27. Relieved by 5th King's Own.
 31. Relieved 5th King's Own.
 Captain V. B. Ramsden, S.W.B., reported as Adjutant.
- April** 2. Relieved by 5th South Staffords and proceeded to billets at Bailleul.
 5. Marched to billets, two and half miles north-west of Westoutre.
 6. Adjutant, Company Commanders and Machine Gun Officer, reconnoitred trenches east of Ypres held by French troops.
 7. Brigade inspected by General Sir. H. Smith-Dorrien.
 8. Battalion proceeded by bus to Ypres, and marched thence to relieve the French in the sector east of the Polygon Wood.
 12. Relieved by the 5th King's Own, and marched to billets in Ypres.
 17. Relieved 5th King's Own and remained in front line 17 days without relief.
- May** 3. Polygon Wood sector evacuated. Battalion retired on G.H.Q. line at Potijze.
 4. A and C Companies moved up in support of front line, and B Company relieve K.R.R.
 5. Heavy shelling. C Company reinforced East Yorks in daylight. That night East Yorks relieved by A and D Companies.
 6. Bombardment less severe.
 7. Bombardment intensified. 1st K.O.Y.L.I. relieve B Company.

- May 8. Heavy shelling and attack. (See Chapter III).
 Battalion withdrawn to Vlamertinghe, less B Company.
9. B Company rejoined Battalion.
10. Composite Battalion formed from remnants of 83rd Brigade, under Lt. Col. Gough, and proceeded to G.H Q. line, Potijze.
11. Lt. Col. Gough wounded—Major Bridge took command. Relieved by Cavalry Division and withdrawn to Vlamertinghe.
12. Moved to billets near Poperinghe.
14. Moved by bus to Winnezele.
- 15—20. Resting and re-organising.
21. G.O.C.-in-C. inspected and addressed Brigade.
22. Orders received for the amalgamation of the three Battalions of the Monmouthshire Regiment.
23. Battalion marched to Vlamertinghe Woods and were joined by 1st Monmouthshires.
24. Enemy attack, and both Battalions move up with the 84th Brigade to counter-attack. Held trenches near Hell Fire Corner.
25. Relieved at night and returned to Vlamertinghe Woods.
27. Joined by 2nd Monmouthshires.
28. Marched to Herzele. Three Battalions amalgamated under command of Major W. S. Bridge, and attached to 84th Brigade.
29. Parade at Herzele for the King's Birthday.
- June 9. Captain S. P. A. Rolls joined as Adjutant vice Captain V. B. Ramsden.

- June 11. Brigade moved to Rosenhilbeek by road.
 Commanding Officer and Company
 Commanders reconnoitre front line.
 Strength of Battalion, 30 officers,
 999 other ranks.
12. Marched to Dickebusch and relieved
 7th K.R.R. in trenches M2—O2.
17. Severe shelling of B Company's trenches,
 5 killed and 17 wounded.
19. Relieved by 1st Welch and Cheshires.
26. Relieved 1st Welch and Cheshires.
- July 3. Relieved by Welch.
5. Meeting of senior officers to re-form
 the three Battalions.
9. Sports.
10. Relieved 1st Welch. Captain Gattie ap-
 pointed Adjutant.
14. Relieved by 4th Royal Fusiliers, 9th
 Brigade, and marched to Canada Huts.
15. Marched to Westoutre and billeted in
 farms.
16. Moved to Badajos Huts, Locre, and that
 night reconnoitred the front line.
19. Marched to Kemmel and relieved the 1st
 Welch in trenches E2—F6.
22. Relieved by the 1st Welch. Orders
 received for 2nd Monmouths to de-
 amalgamate.
24. 2nd Monmouthshires under Captain E.
 Edwards left to join the 12th Infantry
 Brigade.
- Strength. 1st Batt. 7 officers, 193 O.R.
 2nd „ 12 „ 476 „
 3rd „ 8 „ 273 „
26. Draft of 9 officers and 75 other ranks
 arrived for 3rd Battalion.
28. Relieved 1st and 6th Welch. Strength,
 26 officers, 405 other ranks.

276818A

- July 29. Kimmel heavily shelled in retaliation for our shelling Wytschaete.
- Aug. 1. Successful counter-mining by the Monmouths.
2. Relieved by 6th Welch and marched to Locre.
4. Moved to Kimmel Shelters.
6. Draft of 3 officers and 157 other ranks arrived.
7. Moved to Locre.
- 9—10. Battalion re-organising as separate unit.
11. 3rd Monmouthshires marched off to join 83rd Brigade.
16. Draft of 30 reported.
21. Reconnoitred front line.
22. Relieved 5th King's Own in G4—H123.
28. Relieved by King's Own and returned to Locre.
- Sept. 2. Battalion ordered to join 49th (West Riding) Division as Pioneer Battalion. Inspection and address by Major General Bulfin.
3. Marched to bivouacs in Coponolle Woods.
4. Adjutant and officers reconnoitre Yser Canal line.
5. Moved to Elverdinghe Chateau.
- 6—17. Construction of Rotherham Road (Communication Trench)
- 8—9. Heavy shelling of Chateau grounds.
18. Attached to 49th Division as Pioneer Battalion.
21. B and D Companies moved into Dumbarton dug-outs, Yser Canal.
27. A and C Companies relieve. This relief carried on at 6 days intervals.
29. Dumbarton dug-outs heavily shelled.
30. Draft of 34 men arrived.
- Oct. 4. 3 officers reported.
6. 1 officer reported.

- Oct. 11. Moved to dug-outs by Bridge 6B.
 24. Elverdinghe Chateau grounds heavily shelled.
 27. Commanding Officer and 20 other ranks proceed to Abeele for Corps inspection by H.M. The King.
 31. Draft of 74 men arrived.
- Nov. 7. Elverdinghe heavily shelled.
 21. Visit of Welsh Miners' Leaders.
- Dec. 13. Heavy shelling of canal bank.
 19. Heavy shelling of whole area accompanied by a gas attack, which failed.
 20. Heavy bombardment throughout the day.
 27. Canal Detachments relieved by 7th R.B. of the 14th Division.
 29. Four 17 inch. shells fired into the Battalion just before it moved off, causing 69 casualties. Moved to Camp 4, Poperinghe.
 31. Moved to billets at Watou.

1916.

- Jan. 1. Marched to billets near Reitveld.
 Jan. 2. }
 to } 49th Division resting.
 Feb. 2. }
- Jan. 12. Draft of 15 other ranks arrived
 15. 4 officers reported for duty.
- Feb. 3. Battalion marched to Esquelbecq station and entrained.
 4. Detrained at Amiens and marched to Ailly, thence by bus to Saisseval.
 12. Battalion moved to Ailly-sur-Somme.
 13. Marched to Molliens au Bois and
 14. To Bouzincourt.
 17. Battalion commenced work in preparation for the Somme offensive.
- March 5. 49th Division relieved.

- March 8. Battalion H.Q., with B and D Companies, moved to Forceville. A Company to Senlis and C Company to Bus-les Artois.
10. B Company returned to Martinsart.
14. Captain Gattie relinquished appointment as Adjutant.
20. One officer reported for duty.
31. C Company moved to Forceville.
- April 5. Q.M. and Hon. Lt. A. A. Fry, took over duties of Adjutant.
11. Draft of 40 other ranks arrived.
26. Fire and serious explosion at Munition Dump, Acheux.
27. Fire at Munition Dump at Forceville.
- May 8. Memorial Service in memory of those who fell in 2nd Battle of Ypres.
12. 3 officers reported for duty.
13. Draft of 143 other ranks arrived.
21. R.Q.M.S. W. M. Porter gazetted Quartermaster and Hon. Lt.
- June 3. One officer reported for duty.
15. One officer reported for duty.
24. Battalion reassembled at Forceville.
25. Battalion marched to Rubempré and rejoined 49th Division.
27. Battalion moved to Contay and
28. To Harponville.
29. Valedictory message from Divisional Commander on work done during Detachment from Division.
30. Moved to Bouzincourt.
- July 1. Opening of the Somme offensive.
2. Consolidation work with 49th Division.
3. Dug communication trenches, Schwaben Redoubt.
4. Completing this work.
6. Battalion suffered severely on consolidation work.

- July 9. A and C Companies assisted in repulsing counter-attack.
10. Battalion move to bivouacs in Martinsart Wood with B.H.Q. at Hedauville.
11. Draft of 14 other ranks arrived.
13. Draft of 33 other ranks arrived.
16. Serious casualties in B Company at Lancashire Dump.
24. 49th Division relieved.
- Aug 5. Orders received that the Battalion is to be disbanded.
Relieved by the 19th Lancashire Fusiliers.
8. Battalion inspected by Major General Perceval, G.O.C. 49th Division, who delivered farewell speech.
9. Marched to Acheux, by train to Hesdin, and marched to billets at Capelle.
13. Commanding Officer made farewell speech.
14. Draft of 200 other ranks entrained for Poperinghe to join 2nd Monmouths.
18. Five officers reported for duty.
24. 252 other ranks left to join 9th Entrenching Battalion at Steenwerck.
- 26—27. Officers on posting proceeded to various units. Nucleus of Battalion—One officer and 50 other ranks, proceeded to No. 4 Base Camp, Rouen. 37 other ranks proceeded to Steenwerck to join the 9th Entrenching Battalion.

Roll of Honour.

CAPTAINS.

R. L. Baker	8. 5.15
A. A. Fry, M.C.	27. 6.19
R. O. Gardner	8. 5.15
H. A. Hodges	22. 3.18
B. L. Jones	26.12.18
G. W. Lancaster, M.C.	14. 9.18
J. Lancaster	8. 5.15
N. G. N. H. Lewis	17. 9.17
R. T. Rees	23. 8.18
W. Walbeoffe-Wilson	2. 8.15
W. H. Williams	30. 5.18

LIEUTENANTS.

W. L. Bowen, M.C.	1. 9.18
W. Collins, M.C.	10. 4.18
F. N. Groves	8. 5.15
C. H. G. Martin	1. 5.15
W. C. Raymont	6. 5.17
C. S. Reed	8. 5.15
L. B. Rosenbaum	17. 4.18
J. P. Worton	8. 5.15

SUB-LIEUTENANT.

G. J. Mitchell, Hood Batt., R.N.D. March, 1918

2nd LIEUTENANTS.

R. A. Cruikshank	23. 4.17
G. A. H. Davies	7. 6.17
J. G. Glendinning	16.12.17
G. W. Hastings	1. 8.17
G. H. Hobby, M.M.	14.10.18
A. King	31. 5.17
J. S. Metcalfe	17. 1.17
W. Onions	24. 4.15
W. L. Palmer	8. 5.15
C. M. C. Sorby	8. 5.15
C. C. L. Straker	7. 7.16
F. H. Taylor	30.11.17
A. F. Thomas	17. 2.17
F. R. Thomas	13. 6.17
H. V. Townsend	6. 5.15

R.S.M. T. Hatton, 1/12/18, Ebbw Vale.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

Name following the date of death is place of residence, where possible, otherwise place of birth.

-
- 290253 Abbott, William, Pte., 20/4/18, Abergavenny
 - 2409 Abrahams, Abraham, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
 - 4627 Agax, Phillip, Pte., 27/5/16, Llantrisant
 - 1498 Allen, Stanley, Pte., 8/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 - 2164 Amos, Herbert, Pte., 8/5/15, Frampton Cotterell,
near Bristol
 - 2270 Amyes, Basil John, Pte., 8/5/15, Govilon
 - 452 Andrews, Cornelius Robert, Pte., 2/5/15, Bedwellty
 - 2430 Armstrong, Robert Henry Parkinson, Pte., 18/7/16,
Blackburn
 - 2343 Arnold, James, Pte., 26/4/15, Brynmawr
 - 39323 Arnold, William, Pte., 5/1/18, Bargoed
 - 2577 Ashton, Richard, Pte., 30/9/15, Tredegar
 - 2087 Aspey, Gladstone George, Pte., 9/4/15, Yarkhill
 - 291282 Atkinson, Harold, Pte., 12/4/18, Carlisle
 - 2543 Avery, Sidney, Pte., 6/5/15, Abergavenny
 - 72983 Axford, Stanley, Pte., 27/8/18, Ebbw Vale

 - 2561 Badcock, Frank John, Pte., 8/5/15, Luckwell
Bridge
 - 53742 Badham, William Henry, Sgt., 24/3/18, Tredegar
 - 53762 Bailey, Clifford George, Pte., 4/11/16, Abergavenny
 - 2240 Baines, John, Pte., 11/4/15, Tredegar
 - 267596 Baker, Frederick Samuel, Pte., 5/9/17, Bristol
 - 1944 Baker, George, Pte., 8/5/15, Ogbourne
 - 2568 Baker, William Edward George, Pte., 8/5/15,
Beaufort
 - 2582 Baker, Thomas John, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Cwm
 - 54194 Baker, Thomas John, Pte., 4/11/16, Waunllwyd
 - 53784 Baldwin, Albert Edward, Pte., 17/7/17, Abergavenny
 - 266679 Barkus, William, Pte., 18/9/17, Cardiff
 - 291235 Bateson, John, Pte., 13/7/17, Preston
 - 4252 Baulch, Percy, Pte., 21/3/16, Caerleon
 - 267595 Baynton, Thomas, Pte., 12/4/18
 - 1841 Beck, George, L./Cpl., 26/6/15, Blaina
 - 15668 Beddin, Ralph Spencer, Sgt., M.M., 28/1/17,
Aston Magna
 - 2564 Beddoe, Albert George, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 - 54195 Beddoe, David Thomas, Pte., 22/3/18, Hollybush
 - 1505 Bees, Alfred, Pte., 8/5/15, Abertillery
 - 1224 Beeks, William Harold, Cpl., 17/7/16, Tredegar
 - 2107 Bell, Edwin, Pte., 16/1/17, Kingston-on-Thames
 - 2178 Best, William Joshua, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 1467 Bevan, David John, Pte., 20/6/15, Bedwellty
 331 Bevan, William, Pte., 26/4/15, Bedwellty
 53755 Bevan, Thomas, Pte., 4/2/18, Dorstone
 266807 Berry, Harold Vincent, Pte., 15/7/18, Abergavenny
 2143 Bishop, Charles Henry, Pte., 22/4/15, Ledbury
 1526 Bishop, Thomas Henry, Pte., 18/4/15, Craven Arms
 292170 Bibby, James, Pte., 7/6/17, Manningtree
 39871 Blackmore, Thomas John, Pte., 24/3/18, Aberbeeg
 1884 Blakeway, Reginald John, Pte., 5/5/15, Storton
 267429 Blanchard, Stanley, Pte., 23/4/17 Brynmawr
 227802 Boast, Albert John, Pte., 27/5/17, Langrove
 291636 Boardman, Joseph, Pte., 4/12/17, Tyldesley
 2398 Bosley, Frederick, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 1945 Boughley, Thomas, Pte., 8/5/15, Blaina
 2427 Bowden, Arthur Henry, Pte., 24/4/15, Llanhilleth
 1341 Bowden, Edward, Pte., 13/10/15, Neath
 49704 Bowden, Herbert, Pte., 9/11/17, Abergavenny
 2155 Bowes, James, Pte., 3/5/15, Newton-le-Willows
 1296 Bowley, Herbert, Cpl., 8/5/15, Bristol
 2148 Bradley, Patrick, Pte., 7/5/15, Tredegar
 1650 Breakwell, Charles, Pte., 8/5/15, Ross
 59787 Braithwaite, Albert, Pte., 24/9/18
 2250 Brant, James, Pte., 6/5/15, Cwm
 53708 Brickell, Alfred John, Sgt., 7/6/17, Tredegar
 788 Brooks, Frederick John, Pte., 8/5/15, Blaina
 3135 Brown, John Edward, Pte., 29/12/15, Abertillery
 1707 Brown, Reginald, Pte., 30/3/16, Ynysddu
 53737 Brown, William Christopher John, L./Cpl., 24/3/18, Abergavenny
 290882 Browning, Frederick Clement, Pte., 7/6/17, Bristol
 2000 Bruton, James, Pte., 8/5/15, Yarkhill
 291337 Buxton, Henry Charles, Pte., 31/7/17, Le Havre

 1058 Caines, Albert, L./Cpl., 8/5/15, Cheltenham
 1702 Callaghan, Thomas John, Pte., 29/12/15, Victoria
 3405 Carpenter, Sydney, Pte., 16/7/16, Llanhilleth
 267828 Carpenter, George, Pte., 12/4/18, Glanmore
 227903 Carter, Wilfred Tobias, Pte., 20/12/18, Abertillery
 291212 Catterall, Harold, Pte., 21/3/18, Preston
 285002 Carver, Thomas John, Pte., 7/6/17, Waunllwyd
 291292 Champ, Arthur, Pte., 18/2/17, Cadoxton
 285401 Chapman, William Arthur, Pte., 23/8/18, Preston
 267608 Chivers, John, Pte., 23/2/17, Bedwellty
 1804 Clist, David, Pte., 8/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 1315 Clist, Stanley, Pte., 19/12/15, Victoria
 1824 Close, Arthur, Pte., 8/5/15, Monmouth
 291523 Cockell, Richard, Pte., 3/5/18, Manchester
 267433 Coleman, Thomas, Pte., 3/5/18, Brynmawr
 121 Coleman, Levi, Pte., 29/12/15, Llanelly Hill
 1448 Coles, Vivian Idris, Pte., 18/5/18, Cardiff
 2089 Coley, George, Pte., 8/5/15, Oldbury

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 290435 Collier, William, Pte., 8/10/18, Cwm
 53769 Collins, George, Pte., 5/11/16, Brynmawr
 267606 Compton, Harry, Pte., 29/6/17, Wincanton
 266846 Constant, Henry Ivor, Pte., 8/11/17, Tredegar
 267573 Cook, William Trevor, Sgt., 30/11/17, Abergavenny
 1707 Cook, Frederick, Pte., 27/8/15, Lambeth
 1893 Coombey, William Henry, Pte., 8/5/15, Hereford
 267607 Cooper, James, Pte., 12/4/18, Ebbw Vale
 15707 Corbett, Charles Archibald, Pte., 23/11/16, Nantyglo
 2474 Cowdroy, Arthur, Sgt., 23/11/15, Ebbw Vale
 1671 Crewe, Frederick, Pte., 8/5/15, Hawkesbury
 53770 Cross, Trevor, Pte., 11/12/16, Brynmawr
 2563 Crossley, George, Pte., 8/5/15, Upper Clapton
 1205 Crossley, James Richard, Pte., 2/5/15, Beckenham

 2403 Dallimore, William, Pte., 8/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 1863 Darkwell, Bert James, Pte., 6/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 2569 Davies, Alfred, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
 2851 Davies, Charles, Pte., 20/4/16, Ross
 54200 Davies, David Thomas, Pte., 8/4/17, Tredegar
 1324 Davies, Evan, Pte., 2/5/15, Warm Turn, nr. Aberbeeg
 39899 Davies, Ernest, Pte., 23/4/17, Llanvapley
 2049 Davies, Gus, Pte., 8/5/15, Cwm
 53774 Davies, George James, Sgt., 14/4/18, Walton
 1896 Davies, George Shadrach, Pte., 29/12/15, Ebbw Vale
 2512 Davies, Isaac, Pte., 8/5/15, Cwm
 267613 Davies, John Henry, Pte., 12/4/18, Bristol
 285402 Davies, Joseph Henry, Pte., 3/5/18, Manchester
 267583 Davies, Percy, L./Cpl., 30/11/17, Tenbury
 2386 Davies, Samuel, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 2078 Davies, William Edward, Pte., 8/5/15, Penpergwm
 39298 Davies, William Henry, Pte., 5/1/18, Abertillery
 39565 Davies, William Matthew, Pte., 19/7/17, Andover
 2201 Davis, Alfred John, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 1616 Davis, John Thomas, Pte., 8/5/15, Exeter
 290330 Davis, John William, Sgt., 12/9/18, Edinburgh
 2227 Dawson, Harry, Pte., 6/5/15, Tredegar
 3070 Day, Alfred James, Pte., 29/12/15, Six Bells
 2803 Day, Stanley Aubrey, Pte., 29/12/15, Abergavenny
 290786 Day, William Hayward, Sgt., 3/10/18, Calcott
 2110 Denford, John Thomas, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Abertillery
 2109 Denford, Thomas George, Pte., 8/5/15, Abertillery
 291076 Dennon, William, Pte., 2/12/17, Pendleton
 290110 Didcote, Frank, L./Cpl., 7/3/19, Abergavenny
 1063 Dimmick, Albert, Pte., 22/6/15, Blaina
 193 Dimmick, William, L./Cpl., 8/5/15, Blaina
 291908 Dixon, John, Pte., 12/4/18, St. Helens
 54201 Dunning, Frank, Pte., 31/7/17, Newport
 1355 Dwyer, Timothy, Pte., 8/5/18, Tredegar

 285061 Eaglesome, John Murry, Cpl., 9/4/18, Tredegar

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 290307 Eager, John Perrie, Pte., 2/5/15, St. Albans
 267617 Eacups, Frank William, Pte., 12/4/18, Cinderford
 288012 Edwards, Harry, Pte., 6/3/17, Abergavenny
 449 Edwards, Stephens, Sgt., 26/6/15, Tredegar
 267616 Edwards, William, Sgt., 12/4/18, Ebbw Vale
 1963 Edwards, William, Pte., 27/3/15, Sirhowy
 285062 Edwards, Lewis, Pte., 9/7/17, Ebbw Vale
 Edwards, William George, Pte., 7/7/16, Victoria,
 London
 1504 Ellis, Joshua, Pte., 15/9/14, Abersychan
 290022 Ellway, Frederick James, Sgt., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 39288 Emanuel, Francis John, L./Cpl., 3/11/18, Abertillery
 2021 Evans, Arthur Godfrey, Pte., 8/5/15, Hereford
 556 Evans, Arthur Henry, Pte., 6/5/15, Abergavenny
 290496 Evans, Daniel, Pte., 26/4/15, Abergavenny
 53784 Evans, Daniel John, Pte., 7/6/17, Tredegar
 210496 Evans, Dan, Pte., 12/4/16, Tredegar
 228031 Evans, David Mosley, Pte., 4/10/18, Ross-on-Wye
 638 Evans, George, Pte., 26/4/15, Tredegar
 1362 Evans, Ishmael, Pte., 24/4/15, Tredegar
 855 Evans, Ivor Thomas, Sgt., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 679 Evans, John, Cpl., 26/3/15, Cwm
 1815 Evans, Percy, Pte., 8/5/15, Penpergwm
 1738 Evans, Thomas, Pte., 8/5/15, Bishopstone
 1233 Evans, William Arthur, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 56714 Evans, William Fred, Pte., 23/3/18, Swansea
 1780 Evans, Wilfred, Sgt., 20/7/24, Abergavenny

 15102 Fairhurst, Sydney, Pte., 4/12/16, Warrington
 2515 Farmer, Phillip, Pte., 8/5/15, Cwm
 1735 Fellows, Samuel, Pte., 5/6/15, Abergavenny
 54204 Fisher, George Humphrey, Pte., 30/5/18, Abergavenny
 228022 Fisher, Alfred Ernest, L./Cpl., 4/10/18, Abergavenny
 1654 Fitzpatrick, Norbett, Pte., 8/5/15, Bridgend
 1569 Forbes, George Leonard, Pte., 6/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 2414 Foulkes, Edward Leonard, Pte., 8/5/15, Wrexham
 2241 Fox, Charles James, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 1225 Foxall, John Henry, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 290570 Foy, Thomas, Sgt., 7/7/16, Bilston
 2423 Francis, Charles, Pte., 8/5/15, Abertillery
 2216 Francis, George Stanley, Pte., 23/3/15, Cwm
 290723 Francis, John, Pte., 14/10/17, Abergavenny
 15632 Francis, Thomas, Pte., 13/2/17, Michaelchurch
 2562 Francis, William, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 53786 Freeman, Walter, Pte., 6/11/16, Droitwich
 267623 Flynn, David, Pte., 10/4/18, Ebbw Vale

 1352 Gameson, Thomas John, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 291238 Gartside, Frank, Pte., 11/5/18, Chorley
 493 Gatfield, Alfred James, Sgt., 11/4/15, Blackwood
 2276 Gaydon, Edward, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 1729 Gibbon, Alfred, Pte., 5/5/15, Abergavenny
 290401 Gibbs, James Albert, Sgt., 12/4/18, Bromyard
 1432 Gibson, Lawford Cyril, Pte., 2/5/15, Canton, Glam.
 69 Gill, John Thomas, C.S.M., 7/5/15, Abertillery
 53792 Gitton, William John, Pte., 27/9/18, Blaina
 1451 Goode, Ewart Charles, Pte., 2/5/15, Hereford
 1666 Gordon, William, Pte., 8/5/15, Sketty
 2488 Gough, Richard, Pte., 8/5/15, Cwm
 53789 Grant, Robert, Pte., 23/10/18
 2558 Gray, Thomas John, Pte., 9/11/15, Brynmawr
 53794 Green, William Ernest, Pte., 15/7/18, Ebbw Vale
 2441 Griffiths, Cyril, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 963 Griffiths, David Rees, L./Cpl., 24/7/15, Cwmbach
 1642 Griffiths, Ivor Vernon, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
 3264 Griffiths, William Henry, Pte., 29/12/15, Tredegar
 266767 Griffiths, William Isaac, Pte., 24/10/17, Llangybi
 292056 Grinter, Edgar George, Pte., 12/4/18, Swansea
 1518 Grist, Fred, Pte., 26/6/15, Brynmawr
 2023 Gwenlan, Edward, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny

 54 Hailstone, William, Sgt., 12/4/15, Abertillery
 1258 Hale, Wilfred, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm Gynt
 2518 Hancock, Edward Leonard, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 54208 Hann, George Golding, Pte., 30/6/17, Kerridge
 290840 Hann, Frank Golding, L./Cpl., 25/9/18, Ebbw Vale
 54210 Hann, William, Pte., 7/6/17, Abergavenny
 1299 Hanney, George Stanner, Cpl., 8/5/15, Treharris
 230384 Harper, Albert, Pte., 17/11/18, Abergavenny
 2103 Harrington, Michael, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 2127 Harris, Arthur Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 1614 Harris, Arthur, Pte., 2/5/15, Aberavon
 1802 Harris, George, Pte., 2/5/15, Newbridge
 1969 Harris, Harold, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Georgetown, Mon:
 285413 Harrop, George, Pte., 22/8/17, Oldham
 1339 Hathaway, Frank, Pte., 8/5/15, Blaina
 266820 Henley, Charles, Pte., 9/11/17, Cwmtillery
 2102 Herbert, Thomas, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 1409 Herrington, George, Pte., 6/5/15, Blaina
 54224 Heseltine, Henry, Pte., 23/8/15, Horncastle
 15740 Hicks, John Phillip, Pte., 21/11/16, Llantilio
 Crossenny
 2199 Hill, William David, Pte., 3/5/15, Abergavenny
 2413 Hogan, William Torwerth, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 3432 Holmes, Manley Walter, Pte., 28/1/17, Llanhilleth
 53801 Holland, Albert, Pte., 8/10/18, Abergavenny
 675 Hoare, James William, Sgt., D.C.M. 3/8/17, Ebbw Vale
 2499 Hooper, Albert William, Pte., 2/5/15,
 Newnham-on-Severn
 1307 Howells, William, Pte., 8/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 220288 Howells, Arthur, C.S.M., D.C.M., 11/6/18, Ebbw Vale
 285006 Hughes, Arthur, Pte., 24/3/18, Blaina

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 1171 Hughes, Joseph, Pte., 29/12/15, Cwm
 290511 Hughes, Thomas, Sgt., 4/8/17, Cardiff
 290242 Humphries, Edgar, Pte., 26/6/17, Blaina
 206771 Humphries, George Alfred, 15/11/17, Caerwent
 285455 Huntington, Henry, Pte., 9/11/18, Salford
 2337 Hurley, Thomas, Pte., 7/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 54188 Hurley, Thomas, Pte., 14/6/18, Ebbw Vale
 1955 Hurlow, John, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 2093 Hyde, Joseph, Pte., 2/5/15, Upper Gornal

 290350 Iball, Ivor John, C./Sgt., 1/11/17, Abergavenny
 2416 Ireland, Albert James, Pte., 2/5/15, Trostrey
 53807 Ireland, Joseph Thomas, Pte., 6/11/16, Abertillery
 2351 Irwin, Alexander Gordon, Pte., 2/5/15, Bedford
 291242 Isherwood, Ernest, Pte., 12/4/18, Turton

 73339 Jacob, Charles Henry, Pte., 29/9/18, Llanover
 800 James, Arthur Walter, Cpl., 2/5/15, Abertillery
 267645 James, Brinley, Pte., 25/4/17, Abergavenny
 290991 James, Frank, Pte., 12/4/18, Porth
 1217 James, Frederick, Pte., 6/5/15, Tredegar
 2576 James, George, Pte., 2/5/15, Abertillery
 2510 James, Henry, L./Cpl., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 1413 James, Thomas Douglas, Cpl., 2/5/15, Maindee
 290363 James, William, Pte., 26/5/17, Abergavenny
 53735 Jenkins, Albert, L./Cpl., 4/5/17, Llangynidr
 2632 Jenkins, Jack, Pte., 8/5/15, Swindon
 1149 Jenkins, William Edward, L./Cpl., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 284084 Jennings, Frederick Giles, Sgt., 29/5/17, Gloucester
 290010 Jones, Albert, Pte., 2/5/15, Pandy
 290410 Jones, Albert, Pte., 2/5/15, Wigan
 228030 Jones, Arthur James, Pte., 10/10/18, Abertillery
 203 Jones, David, Pte., 2/5/15, Blaina
 3536 Jones, David, Pte., 26/2/16, Rhymney
 53811 Jones, David, Pte., 2/3/17, Sirhowy
 2354 Jones, David James, Pte., 2/5/15, Sirhowy
 16 Jones, Edward William, Sgt., 8/5/15, Sirhowy
 227936 Jones, Frank, Pte., 27/6/17, Chepstow
 742 Jones, George Richard, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 53815 Jones, Harry, Pte., 16/11/16, Ebbw Vale
 53813 Jones, Ivor, Pte., 15/10/18, Tredegar
 2150 Jones, John James, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 1846 Jones, Joseph, Pte., 8/5/15, Pontypool
 1694 Jones, Morgan Henry, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 290227 Jones, Reginald Thomas, Pte., 5/5/15, Abergavenny
 75 Jones, Robert Charles, Sgt., 2/5/15, Cardiff
 1605 Jones, Thomas, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 1902 Jones, Thomas, Pte., 8/5/15, Gwernaffich
 2263 Jones, Wilfred, Pte., 2/5/15, Govilon
 2082 Jones, William Henry, Pte., 2/5/15, Hereford
 2286 Jones, William Hope, L./Sgt., 20/12/15, Wellington

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 2247 Jones, William James, Pte., 2/5/15, Sirhowy
 1053 Jones, William John, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Ebbw Vale
 2478 Jones, William Lloyd, Pte., 8/5/15, Cherbury
 2129 Jones, William Oriel, Pte., 11/7/16, Abertillery
 2104 Jordan, George Thomas, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 267646 Jukes, Thomas, Pte., 4/7/17, Abergavenny

 2042 Keen, William Charles, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 39521 Kettley, Archibald Walter, Pte., 16/8/17,
 Carmarthen
 2308 Keyes, William Mervin, L./Sgt., 2/5/15, Abertillery

 1713 Landers, Joseph, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwmtillery
 1673 Lane, Alfred, Pte., 2/5/15, Ystrad
 2168 Lane, Arthur, L./Cpl., 17/6/15, Great Malvern
 1979 Lane, Edward, Pte., 6/5/15, Tredegar
 2590 Lane, William Henry, 5/5/15, Abertillery
 3176 Langley, Daniel, Pte., 26/8/15, Abergavenny
 267658 Langley, John, Pte., 12/4/18, Abergavenny
 29867 Lee, William Levier, Pte., 26/10/16, Llanelly
 267656 Leenthall, William, Pte., 18/8/17, Rolleston
 1281 Lewis, Arthur, Pte., 2/5/15, Brynmawr
 53824 Lewis, Charles William Ponsford, Pte, 28/10/16,
 Six Bells
 39525 Lewis, David William, Pte., 28/5/18, Clydach
 53821 Lewis, Fred Morley, Pte., 4/2/18, Six Bells
 1649 Lewis, Frank Edward, Pte., 8/5/15, Llangynidr
 53825 Lewis, George Arthur, Cpl., 23/3/18, Tredegar
 280 Lewis, Henry, C.S.M., 24/11/15, Ebbw Vale
 3253 Lewis, Henry Colin, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Garndiffaith
 3328 Lewis, John, Pte., 12/1/16, Abergavenny
 15134 Lewis, John, Pte., 19/1/17, Cwmtillery
 56292 Lewis, Thomas Alfred, Pte., 17/4/18, Abergavenny
 448 Lippiatt, George Henry, C.S.M., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 1871 Livingstone, Francis Henry, Pte., 5/5/15,
 Manchester
 54220 Llewellyn, Fred Albert, Pte., 14/4/17, Newport
 2060 Llewellyn, William, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 291391 Llewellyn, Trevor Emlyn, Pte., 3/7/18, Aberavon
 3162 Lloyd, John Edward, Pte., 29/12/15, Abertillery
 267652 Lloyd, Richard, Pte., 14/10/18, Mountain Ash
 1552 Lockstone, Francis Henry, Pte., 2/5/15, Chipping
 Sodbury
 2439 Lyne, William Henry, Pte., 29/12/15, Abergavenny

 2223 Mansell, Joseph, Pte., 28/3/15, Bisley
 2444 Marks, Richard, Pte., 19/12/15, Cwm
 2236 Marshall, John, Pte., 9/4/15, Bristol
 2556 Martin, Herbert, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 60283 Mason, Frank, Pte., 1/1/19, Morriston
 227944 Mason, William, Pte., 24/6/17, Cwmtillery

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 290701 Matter, William, Pte., 7/7/16, Abergavenny
 1483 Matthews, George Henry, 9/4/15, Tredegar
 2273 Matthews, William John, Pte., 8/5/15, Gloucester
 82 McCarthy, William, Pte., 2/8/15, Abertillery
 2260 Meale, Edgar, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 291758 Mellor, Percy, Pte., 21/4/18, Oldham
 2163 Meredith, Edwin, Pte., 10/7/16, Hereford
 267737 Meredith, Thomas George, Pte., 13/6/18,
 Abergavenny
 2394 Meyrick, Joseph, Pte., 2/5/15, Sirhowy
 1717 Miffin, Albert, Pte., 2/5/15, Suckley
 1715 Miffin, James Thomas, Pte., 2/5/15, Suckley
 2637 Miles, Ernest, Pte., 2/5/15, Bath
 291205 Mooney, Robert, Pte., 12/4/18, Preston
 3569 Moore, Joseph, Pte., 29/12/15, Tredegar
 2771 Moore, Sydney Arnold, 8/5/15, Monmouth
 3365 Morgan, David, Cpl., 29/12/15, Blaina
 1719 Morgan, Edward, Pte., 8/5/15, Merthyr
 1508 Morgan, Fred, Pte., 8/5/15, Blaina
 290556 Morgan, Godfrey, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 2462 Morgan, Harry, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 290285 Morgan, Ivor, Pte., 16/11/18, Ebbw Vale
 2189 Morgan, Robert, Pte., 29/12/15, Bucknell
 2503 Morgan, Walter, Pte., 29/12/15, Bromyard
 2228 Morris, Alfred, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 2094 Morris, Evan, Pte., 2/5/15, Brynmawr
 1901 Morris, David Sydney, Pte., 2/5/15, Crickhowell
 1615 Morris, Harold, Pte., 2/5/15, Saddlebrow, Hereford
 53690 Morris, James, C.S.M., D.C.M., 20/9/17, Cwm
 15768 Morris, Thomas Edward, Pte., 16/12/18, Abertillery
 291911 Mousdell, George, Pte., 25/11/17, St. Helens

 2926 Nash, Frank Henry, Pte., 29/12/15, Cwmtillery
 322 Nash, William, Sgt., 6/5/15, Berkeley
 291806 Naylor, Harry, Pte., 11/11/18, Oldham
 2142 Neal, Reginald Oscar, 2/5/15, Bath
 1306 Needham, Thomas, Cpl., 29/12/15, Birmingham
 53832 Neill, Samuel, L./Sgt., 16/4/18, Abergavenny
 2024 Nekrews, David, Pte., 8/5/15, Newport
 291271 Nesbitt, Charles Thompson, Cpl., 17/7/18, Bolton
 2069 Nicholls, Frank Ernest, Pte., 2/5/15, Garway Hill
 2156 Nicholls, John Thomas, Pte., 5/5/15, Abergavenny
 1983 Nippres, Frank, Pte., 2/5/15, Rodbourne
 1522 Norgrove, Edward Clarence, Pte., 2/5/15,
 Abergavenny
 2027 Norton, Joe Arthur, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny

 3618 Onions, George, Pte., 29/12/15, Aberbeeg
 1567 O'Rourke, Michael, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Ballincollig,
 Cork

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 285475 O'Shea, Daniel, Pte., 11/3/18, Gurthbrock,
Co. Kerry
 1144 Owen, Rees, Pte., 2/5/15, Markham Village, Mon.
 2541 Owen, Windsor, Pte., 6/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 228 Owen, Thomas, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar

 15964 Padfield, James, Pte., 28/1/17, Blaina
 2098 Pain, Thomas, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 1365 Parfitt, Leonard Arthur, Pte., 2/6/15, Abertillery
 2473 Parrish, John, Pte., 8/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 53841 Parsell, Edwin, Pte., 20/9/17, Ebbw Vale
 3000 Payne, Albert, Pte., 29/12/15, Blaina
 285428 Pearce, George Frederick, Pte., 26/6/18, Manchester
 1456 Pearce, James William Frederick, L./Cpl., 2/5/15,
Cwmbach
 1430 Pearce, James, L./Cpl., 29/9/15, Brithdir
 1630 Pearce, W. H. Pte., 11/4/15, Tredegar
 1181 Pepler, Arthur, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 2901 Perry, Charles, Pte., 22/9/15, Tredegar
 267759 Phillips, James Harold, Pte., 14/12/17, Tredegar
 1548 Phillips, James, Pte., 26/4/15, Blaina
 267676 Pickford, John, Pte., 31/7/17, Ebbw Vale
 2171 Pictor, Herbert, Pte., 24/3/15, Trowbridge
 267800 Pierce, Ernest Frederick, Pte., 12/4/18, Abergavenny
 285393 Place, Robert, Cpl., 14/6/18, Bolton
 2913 Plummer, Stanley, Cpl., 29/12/15, Ebbw Vale
 1390 Pocock, George, Pte., 28/3/15, Hammersmith
 1818 Poore, Albert, Pte., 29/12/15, Six Bells
 2153 Porch, Walter Charles, Pte., 26/4/15, Tredegar
 227879 Porter, Richard Wheeler, Pte., 8/10/18,
Gt. Somerford
 3739 Powell, Charles, Pte., 16/5/16, Llangenny
 267687 Powell, David, Pte., 5/7/17, Tredegar
 1553 Powell, Edward John, Pte., 2/5/15, Nantyglo
 54228 Powell, Edwin, L./Cpl., 31/7/17, Abergavenny
 2028 Powell, Daniel Wyndham, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 267682 Powell, George, Pte., 30/11/17, Almondsbury
 1085 Powell, Phillip, Pte., 6/5/15, Abertillery
 15682 Powell, Wilfred, Pte., 8/10/16, Abergavenny
 35 Powles, Albert, Cpl., 2/5/15, Georgetown
 2202 Preen, Herbert William, Sgt., 29/12/15, Church
Stretton
 961 Prewett, George, Sgt., 2/5/15, Bristol
 53743 Price, Arthur, L./Cpl., 8/10/16, Abergavenny
 2520 Price, David William, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 39816 Price, George Montague, Pte., 2/10/17, Macclesfield
 2295 Price, Reginald Tom, Pte., 6/5/15, Wonastow
 1688 Price, J. E. Pte., Tredegar
 1892 Price, Thomas, Pte., 6/5/15, Abergavenny
 1855 Price, William Henry, Pte., 29/12/15, Ebbw Vale

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 1747 Price, William John, Pte., 2/5/15, Bristol
 1210 Pritchard, Arthur, Pte., 7/5/15, Coleford
 290977 Pritchard, Heigh, Pte., 7/10/17, Llanfairpwllgwyngyll
 111 Pritchard, William, Sgt., 2/5/15, Llantilio
 Pertholey
 1607 Pritchard, Archie, Pte., 2/5/15, Six Bells
 60315 Pritchard, Clarence Henry, Pte., 23/3/18, Risca
 290258 Pritchard, Reginald James, Pte., 2/5/15, Mardy,
 Abergavenny
 3457 Probert, William, Pte., 29/12/15, Tredegar
 2406 Prosser, Frederick James, Pte., 8/5/15
 Hollybush
 267683 Prosser, Thomas James, Pte., 30/11/17,
 Abergavenny
 54230 Prosser, Trevor, Pte., 12/5/17, Nantyglo
 3460 Pugh, Edwin, Pte., 29/12/15, Abergavenny
 1987 Pugh, Roger, Pte., 29/12/15, Scwrfra
 38745 Pugh, John Tudor, Pte., 26/11/18, St. Asaph

 15687 Quinton, George, Pte., 7/2/17, Evesham

 1593 Rancombe, Marcus, Pte., 5/4/15, Abertillery
 2158 Rea, George Henry, Pte., 2/5/15, Stevenston
 292259 Reece, William, Pte., 12/4/18, Manchester
 290862 Rees, James, Pte., 26/4/18, Tredegar
 1683 Rees, James Brinley, Pte., 19/12/15, Ebbw Vale
 53849 Rees, William N., Pte., 15/11/16, Abergavenny
 1371 Regan, William, Pte., 8/5/15, Cheltenham
 3462 Reynolds, Evan John, Pte., 16/7/16, Abergavenny
 119 Reynolds, William, Pte., 27/3/15, Abertillery
 2092 Rice, Fred, Pte., 8/5/15, Penny-come-quick,
 Plymouth
 290729 Richards, Charles, Pte., 27/9/17, Abergavenny
 1215 Richards, William, Pte., 2/5/15, Neath
 291246 Rigby, John, Pte., 6/7/17, Adlington
 291895 Rimmer, George, Pte., 6/8/17, Holmes Chapel
 63477 Ritchie, John Henry, Pte., 20/10/18, Ewloe
 Hawarden
 1485 Roach, Harry, Pte., 6/5/15, Abergavenny
 15946 Roberts, George, Pte., 27/11/16, Abergavenny
 225580 Roberts, Thomas Henry, Cpl., 3/4/17, Newport
 3577 Rogers, Sydney, Pte., 29/12/15, Bargoed
 2105 Rogers, William, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 39876 Rollings, Sydney, Pte., 12/6/18, Presteign
 2622 Rowe, George Henry, Pte., 8/7/16, Abertillery
 290993 Rowlands, Robert, Pte., 30/11/17, Chester
 1862 Rudman, John Owen, Pte., 8/5/15, Ebbw Vale

 2088 Sales, Alfred George, Pte., 29/12/15, Dartford
 2303 Salt, Thomas Frederick Cyril, L./Cpl., 4/4/15,
 Mumbles

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 1536 Savagar, Charles Leopold, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
 267698 Savoy, Herbert Levi, Pte., 14/4/18, Blandford
 2022 Sayce, Hugh Bourne, Pte., 19/12/15, Abergavenny
 53719 Scott, Edward, Cpl., 7/5/17, Birmingham
 62690 Seabourne, Joe, Pte., 10/12/18, Ebbw Vale
 1791 Seagrave, James, Pte., 8/5/15, Hackney
 1406 Seymour, Charles, Pte., 8/5/15, Nantyglo
 2196 Shaw, Joseph Edward William, Cpl., 8/5/15,
 Abergavenny
 290771 Shaw, William John, Pte., 4/7/16, Aston
 290387 Sherratt, James Grant, Sgt., 4/2/18, Stock Green,
 Redditch
 53712 Sketchley, Sidney Henry, Sgt., 7/6/18, Abergavenny
 290208 Smith, Albert Henry, Pte., 21/10/18, Tredegar
 73209 Smith, Edwin, Pte., 21/7/18, Newport
 53862 Smith, George, Pte., 10/8/17, Ebbw Vale
 1600 Smith, Thomas, Pte., 8/5/15, Cwmtillery
 2269 Smith, Thomas George, Pte., 8/5/15, Govilon
 1175 Smith, William, Pte., 8/5/15, St. Michaels,
 Hereford
 2251 Smithbone, Perry, Pte., 6/5/15, Boston
 1990 Snell, Frederick, Sgt., 29/12/15, Tredegar
 2381 Snow, James, Pte., 10/4/15, Tredegar
 201722 Southwood, Walter, Pte., 18/9/18, Abergavenny
 290432 Spilsbury, Herbert John, Sgt., 2/12/17, Abergavenny
 1516 Stanton, James, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
 39371 Steen, George William, Pte., 6/5/17, Llantilio, Mon.
 53853 Stevens, Reginald John, Pte., 7/6/17, Abertillery
 1580 Stickler, Walter Edgar, Pte., 6/5/15, Frome
 21910 Stout, James, Pte., 12/4/18, St. Helens
 290093 Sturdy, Basil George, L./Sgt., 4/7/17, Charlbury
 2332 Sullivan, William, Pte., 7/5/15, Ebbw Vale
 53853 Summers, Edwin, Pte., 4/11/16, Tredegar
 292042 Sweetland, Henry Herbert, 30/11/17, Holloway
 1303 Sydenham, Harry, Pte., 8/5/15, Cardiff
 2805 Sykes, Frank, Pte., 8/5/15, Bradford
 3118 Taylor, Bertie, Pte., 30/8/15, Abertillery
 53864 Taylor, Frederick George, Pte., 10/3/19, Aberbeeg
 1657 Taylor, Henry George, Pte., 29/12/15, Llanvetherine
 1829 Taylor, Thomas, Pte., 6/5/15, Barry
 1346 Teague, Albert, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 1418 Teague, Hubert, Pte., 8/5/15, Shamokin, U.S.A.
 1470 Thomas, David, Pte., 29/12/15, Cwmburla
 1783 Thomas, James, Pte., 6/5/15, Hollybush
 1382 Thomas, John, Pte., 8/5/15, Blaina
 1185 Thomas, John, Pte., 8/5/15, Dukestown
 1620 Thomas, John Francis, Pte., 26/6/15, Tredegar
 2501 Thomas, Oliver, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
 2490 Thomas, Samuel, Pte., 9/12/15, Hentland
 1992 Thomas, Seph., Pte., 6/5/15, Tredegar

ROLL OF HONOUR.

- 15817 Thompson, Walter, Pte., 28/11/16, Bristol
 677 Tipples, John, Cpl., 8/5/15, Splott
 285435 Toft, Hubert, Pte., 8/10/18, Lees
 2230 Toombs, Harry, Pte., 8/5/15, Clevedon
 227885 Travers, Robert, Pte., 23/4/17, Bristol
 1822 Trehern, George William, Sgt., 11/9/15, Goodrich,
 Ross
 285437 Turner, Stanley Rudolph, Pte., 22/8/17, Middleton
 1010 Turner, Wilfred, Sgt., 8/5/15, Blaina
 1304 Turner, William James, L./Cpl., 8/5/15, Brynmawr
 2420 Turner, William James, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 39392 Tyler, Charles, Pte., 11/4/18, Hereford

 2470 Vaughan, John, Pte., 26/6/15, Ebbw Vale
 15820 Vaughan, Thomas, Harold, Pte., 27/11/16,
 Skenfrith
 227997 Vaughan, Thomas, Pte., 27/6/17, Tredegar
 2528 Vertine, Windsor, Pte., 27/5/15, Cwm

 15845 Walker, Arthur, Pte., 27/11/16, Nantyglo
 1781 Walters, Fred, Pte., 6/5/16, Abergavenny
 1810 Watkins, Albert, Cpl., 29/12/15, Ebbw Vale
 1699 Watkins, Charles, Pte., 28/6/15, Harewoodland
 2025 Watkins, Charles Herbert, Pte., 22/11/15,
 Abergavenny
 2029 Watkins, Harold Percival, Pte., 24/9/15, Ross
 39229 Watkins, Ivor, L./Cpl., 24/3/18, Abergavenny
 1487 Watkins, John Henry, L./Cpl., 20/4/15, Tredegar
 1312 Watkins, Thomas, Pte., 26/4/15, Victoria
 2886 Webb, Albert, Pte., 9/7/16, Abergavenny
 2493 Webber, George Henry, Pte., 8/5/15, Llanhilleth
 54397 Webley, Walter, Pte., 22/8/18, Newent
 2522 Weeks, Albert, Pte., 2/5/15, Cwm
 267732 Welsh, William, Pte., 5/4/17, Abergavenny
 2344 Werrett, Alfred, Pte., 2/5/15, Llangattock
 2511 Weybourne, William Arthur, Pte., 17/4/15,
 Ebbw Vale
 290381 Whatley, Robert, Sgt., 14/4/18, Newbridge
 1736 Whatmore, Charles, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
 2167 Whipp, James William, Pte., 2/5/15, Tredegar
 290465 White, Albert, Pte., 28/2/18, Gilwern
 2067 White, Albert Ivor, Sgt., 2/5/15, Essington
 267721 White, Charles, Pte., 17/2/19, Hereford
 60143 White, Cecil George, Pte., 12/11/18, Croyde, Devon
 267720 Whittall, Charles, Pte., 28/8/17, Gt. Malvern
 53720 Whittall, David, Cpl., 5/11/16, Glasbury-on-Wye
 1093 Wigley, William Henry, Sgt., 7/5/18, Abergavenny
 53872 Wilkes, Daniel James, L./Cpl., 22/3/18, Tredegar
 1995 Williams, Albert, Pte., 8/5/15, Tredegar
 15016 Williams, Albert Victor, Pte., 30/11/17, Abergavenny
 2243 Williams, Boaz, Pte., 6/5/15, Abergavenny

ROLL OF HONOUR.

1834	Williams, Cyril, Pte., 2/5/15, Aberystruth
746	Williams, Daniel, Pte., 8/5/15, New Tredegar
290458	Williams, Daniel, Pte., 2/5/15, Llangattock
2336	Williams, Edward, Pte., 29/12/15, Tredegar
267359	Williams, Emrys David, Cpl., 12/4/18, Sirhowy
2341	Williams, George, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
2646	Williams, George Henry, Pte., 15/3/15, Garn
267719	Williams, Harry, Pte., 22/10/17, Crickhowell
267718	Williams, Herbert, Pte., 30/11/17, Ebbw Vale
53862	Williams, Howell Morgan, Pte., 15/4/18, Wrexham
291107	Williams, John Frederick, 12/4/18, Higher Broughton
227886	Williams, Reggie John, Pte., 8/10/18, Llanellen
267768	Williams, Richard, Pte., 2/12/17, Tredegar
1528	Williams, Richard Charles, Pte., 2/5/15, Bristol
2001	Williams, Tom, Pte., 29/12/15, Ebbw Vale
2419	Williams, Thomas Rees, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
3268	Williams, William George Howard, Cpl., 29/12/15, Newport
53878	Williams, Windsor, Cpl., 14/9/18, Ebbw Vale
39397	Wilson, George William, Pte., 16/2/17, Sutton-in-Ashfield
1408	Wilton, John Henry, L./Cpl., 2/5/15, Blaina
1396	Wiltshire, Arthur, Pte., 8/5/15, Wannafod
290705	Wiltshire, Edwin, Pte., 12/4/18, Abergavenny
2217	Wiltshire, Edwin William, 6/5/15, Kingswood, Bristol
1177	Winney, Robert, Pte., 6/5/15, Abergavenny
3427	Winter, Edward Henry, Pte., 20/11/15, Bridgend
2863	Wood, George Albert, Pte., 16/7/16, Cwmtillery
2064	Workman, Arthur Edmunds, Pte., 2/5/15, Abergavenny
1647	Worthington, John James, Pte., 8/5/15, Abergavenny
1998	Wycherley, Bertie Wenham, Pte., 3/5/15, Linton
290041	Yandle, John, L./Cpl., 29/12/15, Tredegar

*" They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old,
 " Age shall not weary them, or the years condemn.
 " At the going down of the sun and in the morning
 " We will remember them."*

3rd MONMOUTHSHIRE REGIMENT.

LIST OF HONOURS.

C.M.G.

Lt. Col. H. W. Worsley Gough.

D.S.O.

Major W. A. Lewis (att. 1st Mons.)

*Capt. K. F. D. Gattie.

BAR TO M.C.

Capt. S. E. Boulton (att. S. Lancs.)

M.C.

Capt. O. W. D. Steel.

Capt. K. F. D. Gattie.

Capt. A. A. Fry.

*Capt. G. W. Lancaster (att. 15th Batt. Welch Regt.)

*Capt. S. E. Boulton (att. S. Lancs.)

*Lt. W. Collins (att. 2nd Monmouths)

*Lt. J. F. Rees (att. S. Wales Borderers)

*Lt. W. E. Jenkins (att. Middlesex Regt.)

*Lt. W. L. Bowen (att. Cheshire Regt.)

*Lt. C. E. Birkett (att. M.G.C.)

Lt. and Qm. W. M. Porter (att. 2nd Monmouths)

Lt. D. Towy Evans (att. 17th Batt. King's Liverpool Regt.)

CROIX DE GUERRE AVEC PALMES.

Capt. J. Merton Jones (att. R.E.)

135 C.S.M. G. A. Gravenor, D.C.M.

CROIX DE GUERRE BELGE.

Lt. G. D. Maclean, R.A.M.C.

CROSS OF ST. ANNE 3RD CLASS WITH SWORDS (RUSSIAN).

Lt. D. Towy Evans.

BAR TO D.C.M.

*220288 C.S.M. A. Howells

(D.C.M. 1902 South Africa).

**See Extracts from London Gazette at the end of this List.*

D.C.M.

- * 135 C.S.M. G. A. Gravenor.
- *290337 C.S.M. T. Johnson.
- * 53690 C.S.M. J. Morris.
- * 53723 C.S.M. H. J. Lewis.
- * 1920 Sgt. B. Jenkins.
- * 2172 Sgt. G. W. Sketchley.
- * 675 Cpl. J. W. Hoare (att. 171st Tunnelling Co.)
- * 1511 L./Cpl. R. G. Leonard (att. 171st Tunn. Co.)
- * 1425 L./Cpl. W. Dixon.
- * 1343 Pte. J. J. Moore.
- * 2240 Pte. I. Skidmore.

BAR TO M.M.

1132 Sgt. A. Rawlins.

M.M.

- * 569 C.Q.M.S. L. A. H. Dunn.
- 624 C.S.M. H. J. Lewis.
- 2033 C.S.M. A. Britton.
- 457 C.Q.M.S. C. Pritchard.
- 1330 Sgt. G. Buck.
- 151 Sgt. J. Connolly.
- 1132 Sgt. A. Rawlins.
- 1868 Sgt. E. Hookham.
- 15660 Sgt. R. S. Beddin.
- *227744 Sgt. D. J. O'Leary.
- 2106 Cpl. G. H. Hobby.
- 1524 L./Cpl. J. Britton.
- 2176 L./Cpl. J. Brickell.
- 1814 L./Cpl. L. Andrews.
- 1680 Pte. E. J. Griffiths.
- 1317 Pte. G. Powell.
- 2173 Pte. J. Wyatt.
- 1481 Pte. T. Madden.
- 267597 Pte. L. Bayes.
- 1727 Pte. W. Nash.

M.S.M.

- * 53691 R.Q.M.S. L. A. H. Dunn.
- 290050 R.Q.M.S. T. Saunders.

290313 C.S.M. A. Forbes.
 227744 Sgt. D. J. O'Leary

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

Lt. Col. H. W. Worsley Gough.
 Lt. Col. W. S. Bridge.
 Major W. A. Lewis.
 Capt. O. W. D. Steel.
 Capt. K. F. D. Gattie.
 Capt. J. M. Jones.
 Capt. C. W. Hitchcox.
 Capt. H. A. Hodges.
 Capt. A. G. Newman.
 Capt. A. A. Fry.
 Capt. R. M. Derry.
 Lt. A. C. Lay.
 Lt. W. Collins.
 Lt. J. F. Rees.
 Lt. O. H. Burgess.
 Lt. W. E. Jenkins.
 Lt. J. A. Crutchley.
 Lt. W. J. Charles.
 Lt. C. E. Birkett.
 Lt. S. E. Boulton.
 Lt. F. W. Mansfield.
 Lt. R. M. Nott.
 Lt. C. Flavell.

Lt. and Q.M. W. M. Porter.
 Capt. G. D. Maclean, R.A.M.C.

1122 C.S.M. A. Howells.
 1971 C.S.M. T. Johnson.
 69 C.S.M. J. T. Gill.
 2026 Sgt. I. Iball.
 1145 Sgt. W. A. Allen.
 2278 Sgt. W. Pritchard.
 227744 Sgt. D. J. O'Leary.
 2173 Pte. J. Wyatt.

GALLANTRY CARDS.

1122 C.S.M. A. Howells, D.C.M.

- 1425 L./Cpl. W. Dixon.
- 1317 Pte. E. G. Powell.
- 1310 Pte. Pickford.
- 1343 Pte. J. J. Moore.
- 2372 Pte. R. S. Stevens.
- 2623 Pte. E. A. Baker.
- 2627 Pte. T. Gundy.

EXTRACTS FROM LONDON GAZETTE.

D.S.O.

CAPTAIN K. F. D. GATTIE.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. With great coolness he went through the hostile barrage to consolidate communication between Brigade and Battalion Headquarters at a critical moment. His disregard for personal safety had a most reassuring effect on the men. He had previously rendered the greatest assistance in making preparation for the attack. 16.8.17.

M.C.

CAPTAIN G. W. LANCASTER (att. 15th Batt. Welch
Regt.)

He was specially selected to command one and a half Companies to reconnoitre across a river and secure crossings. The duty was of a difficult and dangerous nature, but he carried it out with complete success, capturing five machine-guns and some prisoners, and inflicting losses on the enemy. The Battalion crossed in safety two days after. He was subsequently wounded for the third time, but he continued to lead and encourage his men at a critical moment, until he collapsed from loss of blood. His gallantry and fine leadership have been conspicuous on more than one occasion. 2.12.18.

CAPTAIN S. E. BOULTON (att. 11th S. Lancs.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during recent operations. When the sector of the line held by his Company was heavily shelled and enfiladed by machine-gun fire, owing to the troops on his right not being in position, he took command, moved his Company forward, held on to the position. By his coolness and disregard of danger he inspired confidence in his men under trying circumstances. On a previous occasion he ably withdrew his Company in the dark under heavy gas and high explosive shelling. 26.7.18.

LT. WALTER COLLINS (att. 2nd Monmouths)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great courage and determination in organising and leading stretcher parties to collect wounded under heavy fire. 10.1.17.

LT. W. E. JENKINS (att. Middlesex Regt.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He carried out a daring reconnaissance with ten men and established a post 200 yards inside the enemy's lines. The information he obtained enabled Lewis guns to stop enemy snipers. He was on duty thirty-six hours under heavy shellfire. He did fine work. 16.9.18.

LT. J. F. REES (att. S.W.B.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in charge of half a Company. When the left flank was pushed back, under heavy machine-gun fire he pushed out a defensive flank and gradually withdrew his line in conjunction with the Unit on his left. On several occasions he made personal reconnaissances and brought back valuable information. 24.9.18.

LT. W. L. BOWEN (att. Cheshire Regt.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in assisting to re-organise scattered Units when the enemy broke through, and in assisting to hold the position all night. He used his Lewis guns with great skill, causing considerable casualties to the enemy, and enabling his men to withdraw when the position was untenable. 14.9.18.

LT. C. E. BIRKETT (att. M.G.C.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although wounded, he commanded his tank with the greatest gallantry and skill. He was subsequently wounded a second time. 26.5.17.

D.C.M.

135. C.S.M. G. A. GRAVENOR.

For conspicuous gallantry ; when sent up with a half company to reinforce another regiment he came under heavy rifle fire, which killed and wounded several of his party, he himself being wounded. The Company began to fall back but he limped after his men, rallied them, and although wounded in the leg, led them to the advanced trench, where he remained in command of it until he was carried back to the dressing station. 14.1.16.

2172. SGT. G. W. SKETCHLEY.

For conspicuous gallantry. When his Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant had both been killed, he displayed great bravery and skill in keeping men together in the support trench under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire. 14.1.16.

1920. SERGEANT B. JENKINS

For conspicuous gallantry and good work during the whole of the time the Battalion took part in the operation, displaying great bravery, coolness and resource in mending the wires under very heavy fire on several occasions. 14.1.16.

2440. PTE. I. SKIDMORE.

For conspicuous gallantry. He went to the assistance of one of his officers under heavy rifle fire from the front and cross fire of machine-guns from the flank. He dressed his wounds but was seriously wounded himself in returning to the trench 14.1.16.

1511. LANCE CORPORAL R. G. LEONARD.

(att 171st Tunnelling Company, R.E.)

For conspicuous gallantry. He took charge of his section, the Section Sergeant having been killed by a mine. His coolness and bravery were very marked. 14.1.16.

675. PTE. J. W. HOARE (att. 171st Tunnelling Co. R.E.)

For conspicuous coolness and resource under fire at Houplines on 9th August, 1915. His Section Officer was severely wounded and buried in the ruins of a dug-out, but Pte. Hoare rescued him under heavy shell fire and conveyed him to safety. He then rallied and took command of his section ; posting them in the mine gallery. On several occasions he has shown coolness and capacity to take charge in trying situations. 15.9.15.

1425. LANCE CORPORAL W. DIXON.

For conspicuous gallantry, when he volunteered with a comrade to cross a canal and bring in two men who were believed to be incapacitated. They succeeded under heavy fire in bringing in one man badly gassed. (On December 19th, 1915). 15.3.16.

1343. PTE. J. T. MOORE.

For conspicuous gallantry, when, regardless of his own danger, he worked for several hours bringing in men who were wounded and buried in the bombarded area. (On December 19th, 1915). 15.3.16.

290337. C.S.M. T. JOHNSON
(2nd Monmouths)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty whilst supervising working parties under continuous heavy bombardment. His splendid courage gave the men confidence to carry on steadily with their work, and contributed very largely to its successful completion. 17.9.17.

53723. C.S.M. H. J. LEWIS.
(9th Welch)

He has always set a fine example of keenness, and courage to the men of his Company. In the successful operations near the La Bassée Road in September, his dash, cheerfulness and contempt for danger, were a fine example for all. On two separate occasions, although badly shaken and bruised by the burst of a shell, he refused to leave his Company. 1.1.19.

53690. C.S.M. J. MORRIS.
(9th Welch)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. All the officers of his Company became casualties in the attack and he took command of the Company, although wounded, and led on to the final objective until put out of action by a second wound. His initiative and devotion to duty at a critical stage largely contributed to the success of the operations. 4.3.18.

BAR TO D.C.M. AWARDED 1902.

220288. C.S.M. A. HOWELLS, D.C.M.

(R. Berks. Regt.)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in taking command of his Company when all the officers had become casualties, re-organising them after an attack, and beating off a counter-attack with heavy loss to the enemy. 4.3.18.

M.M.

569. C.Q.M.S. L. A. H. DUNN.

For consistent performance of his duty in a marked and conspicuous manner, and for devotion to duty during the period the Battalion has been out in this country, viz. February, 1915. 9.11.16.

227744. SERGEANT D. J. O'LEARY

(1st Monmouthshires)

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty throughout the fighting from September 29th, 1918, to October 4th, 1918. Sgt. O'Leary showed great gallantry and skilful leadership of the Platoon of which he was in charge. While his Platoon was holding a portion of the outpost line he noticed a sniper moving to his post, without hesitation Sgt. O'Leary ran forward and captured the sniper alone. When men of his Platoon were wounded, Sgt. O'Leary organised the party under heavy shell fire and arranged for the tending of the wounded. Throughout the whole of the operations this N.C.O. has shown a fine soldierly spirit and has set a great example in leadership and courage.

M.S.M.**53691 R.Q.M.S. L. A. H. DUNN, M.M.****(9th Welch)**

For continued good service as Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant. His work at all times has been of a very high order and has greatly contributed towards the comfort of the troops, both in and out of the line. He is a most hard working and reliable Warrant Officer, and has been of the greatest help to the Battalion Staff.

227744. SERGEANT D. J. O'LEARY.**(1st Monmouthshires)**

Awarded in recognition of the valuable services he rendered in France and Belgium during the present war.

1911

OCKER

JUL 01 1987

